

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC)

Thursday, April 10, 2024, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Zoom: Click to join. (Call-in: 253.205.0468; Meeting ID: 816 5686 6078; Passcode: 038972)

Meeting Objectives – April:

• Share pertinent info and assess water supply conditions in Washington for winter.

Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Responsible
10:00 a.m.	Welcome and agenda review Caroline Mellor,	
	Recap: Drought Declaration and implications	
10:10 a.m.	Regional Climate Setting/ ENSO	Karin Bumbaco, OWSC
10:25 a.m.	Mountain Conditions	Matt Warbritton, NRCS
10:40 a.m.	Streamflow and Groundwater	Nick Sutfin, USGS
10:55 a.m.	Yakima Project	Mik Lewicki, BOR
11:05 a.m.	Water Supply Forecasts	Amy Burke, NWS
11:20 a.m.	Discussion: What concerns do folks have for	All participants
	drought recovery and Water Year 2025?	Ecology facilitates
11:25 a.m.	Wrap-up	Caroline Mellor, Ecology

Committee Purpose

WSAC provides an important consultative and advisory role to Ecology related to current and forecasted water supply conditions and whether the hydrologic drought threshold has been met or is forecasted to be met: seventy-five percent of normal water supply within a geographic area (RCW 43.83B.405 and WAC 173-166-050).

Resources

WSAC Website: <u>Water Supply Availability Committee - WA State Department of Ecology</u> Ecology Drought homepage: Drought response - WA State Department of Ecology

Contact

Committee Chair: Caroline Mellor, Statewide Drought Lead, WA Department of Ecology Caroline.Mellor@ecy.wa.gov | (c) 360.628.4666







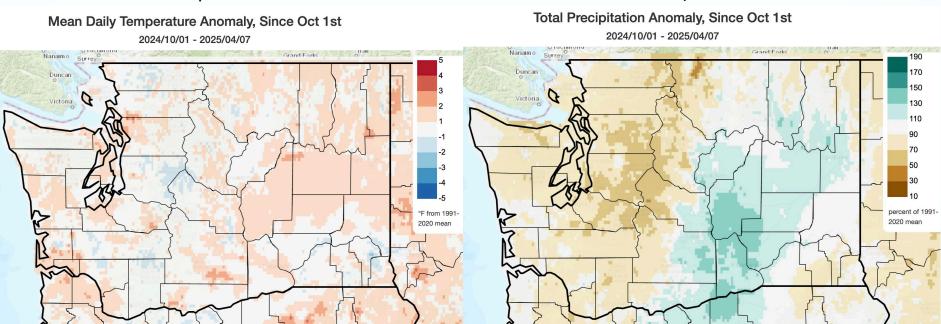
Current Conditions and Seasonal Outlook

Karin Bumbaco
Washington State Climate Office
Climate Impacts Group
University of Washington
April 10, 2025

Water Year 2025

Temperature

Precipitation



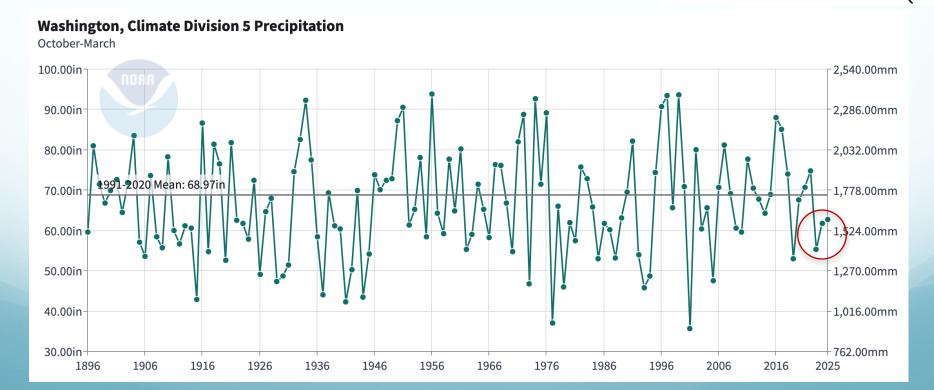
- Averaged statewide, Oct-Mar temperatures were above normal (+0.6°F)*
- Averaged statewide, Oct-Mar precipitation was near-normal (97% of normal)

Climate Toolbox

Cascade Mountain West Climate Division ____

 Averaged across the division, Oct-Mar precipitation was below normal (91% of normal)

Cascade Mountain West (#5)



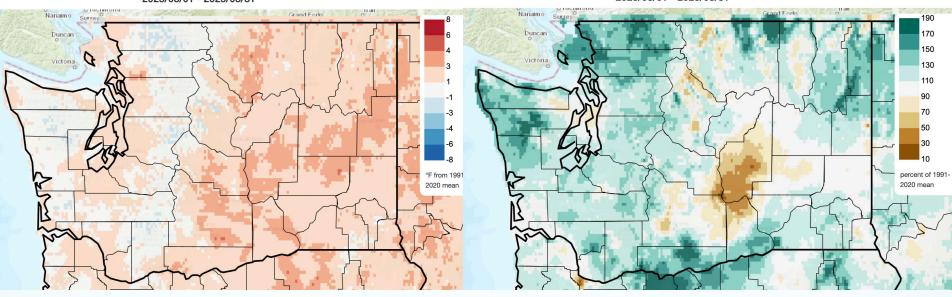
March 2025

Temperature

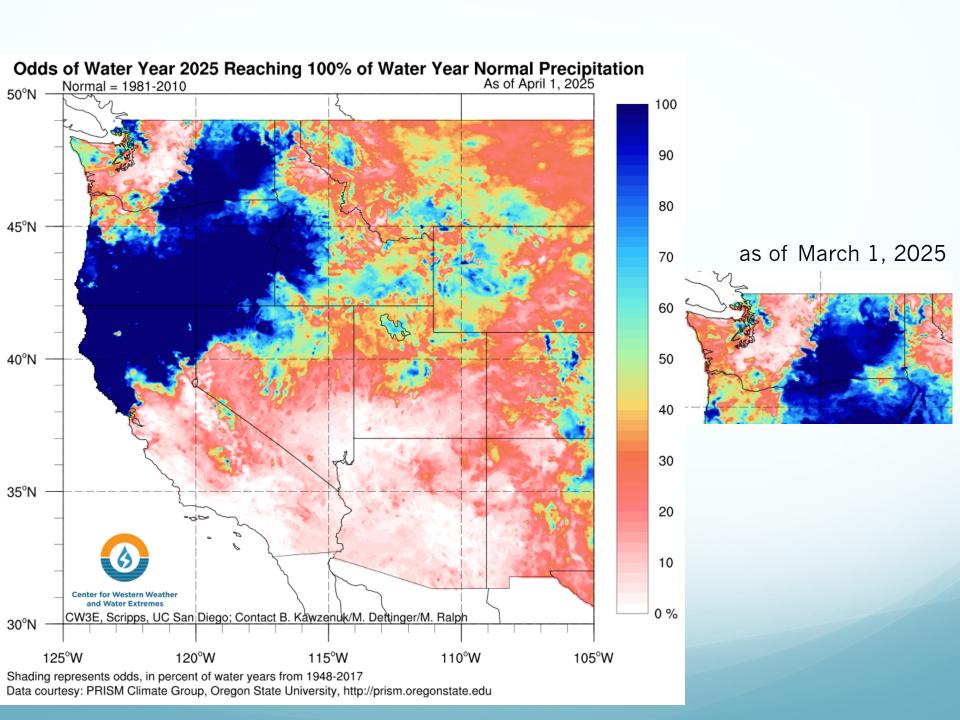
Precipitation

Mean Daily Temperature Anomaly, Last Full Month 2025/03/01 - 2025/03/31

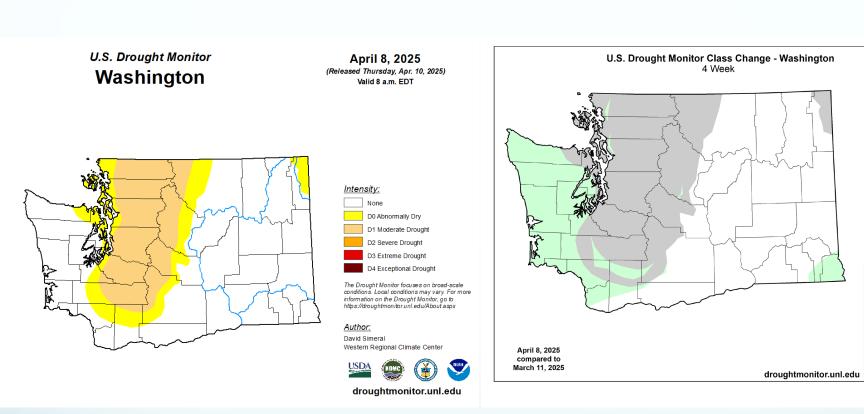
Total Precipitation Anomaly, Last Full Month 2025/03/01 - 2025/03/31



- Climate Toolbox
- Averaged statewide, March temperatures were above normal (+1.9°F), tying as the 20th warmest on record*
- Averaged statewide, March precipitation was above normal (115% of normal)



U.S. Drought Monitor



4 Class Degradation

3 Class Degradation

2 Class Degradation

1 Class Degradation
No Change

1 Class Improvement

2 Class Improvement

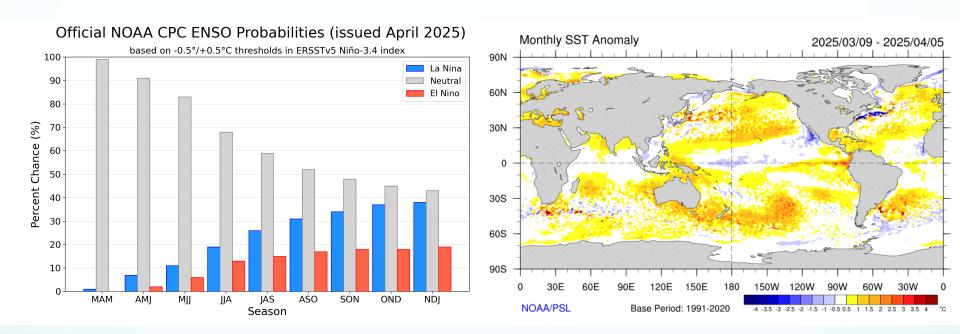
3 Class Improvement

4 Class Improvement

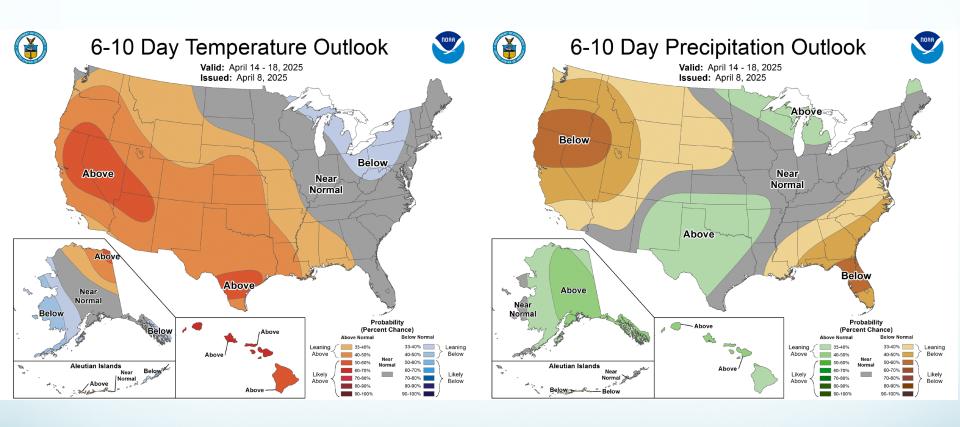
5 Class Improvement

Current Status: Neutral

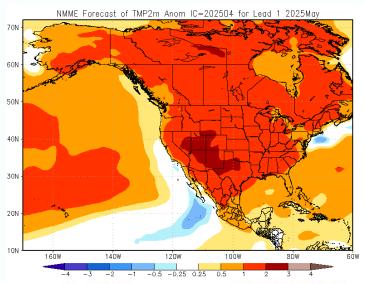
Final La Niña Advisory: **Neutral Conditions**

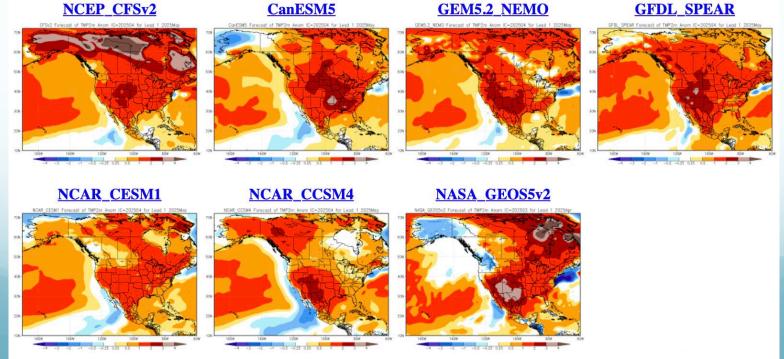


Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Outlook

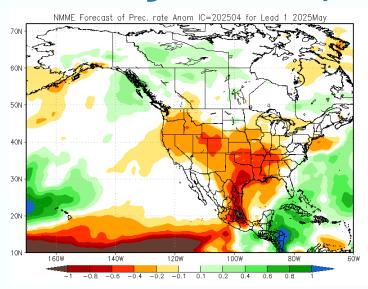


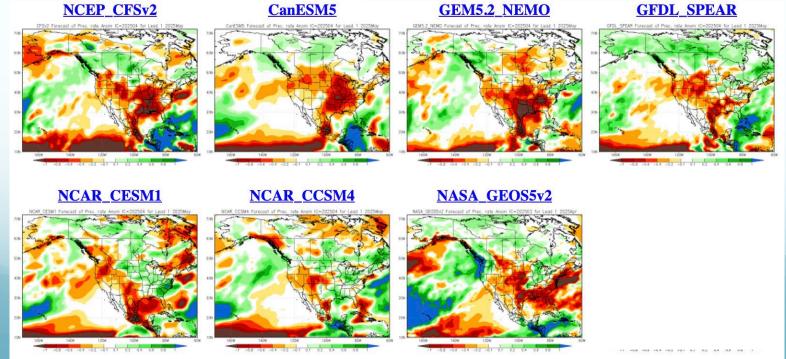
NMME: May Temperatures



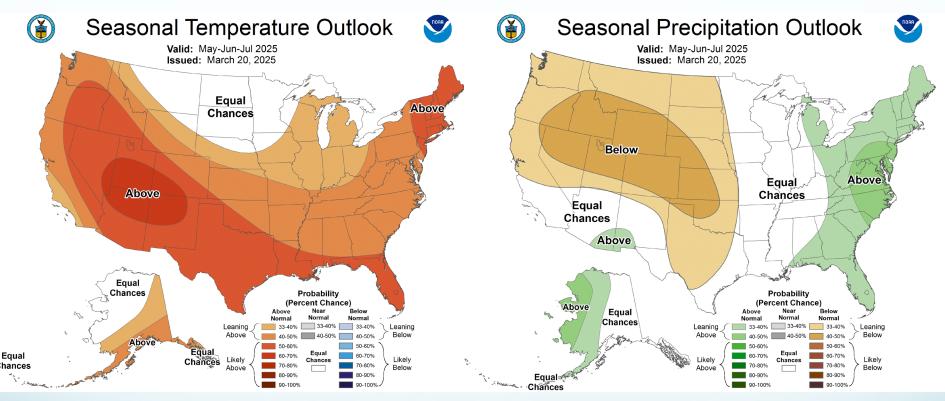


NMME: May Precipitation





Climate Prediction Center Outlook: May-Jul

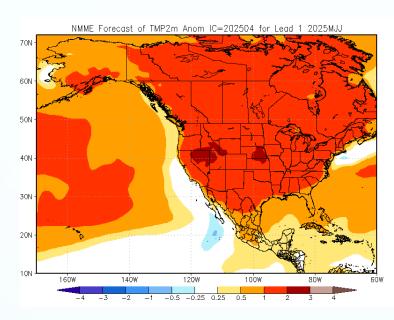


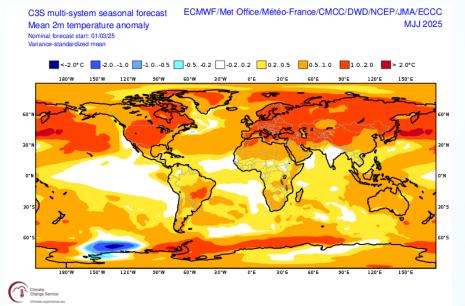
June-August: Higher odds of above normal temps and below normal precip

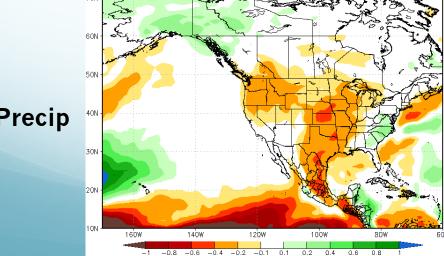
May-July

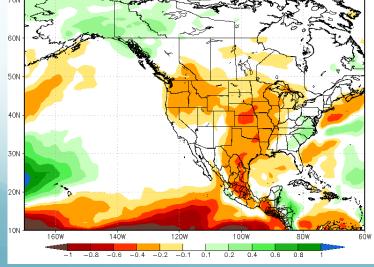
NMME

IMME

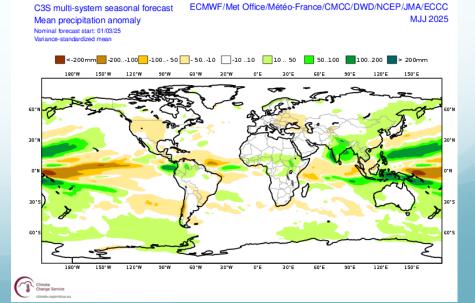








NMME Forecast of Prec. rate Anom IC=202504 for Lead 1 2025MJJ



Precip

Temp

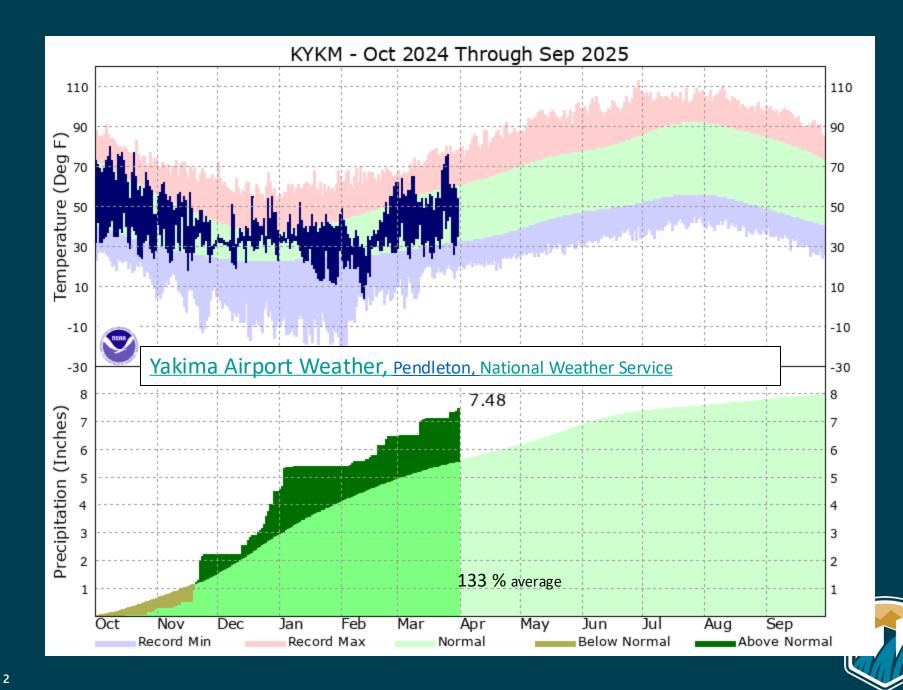
Summary

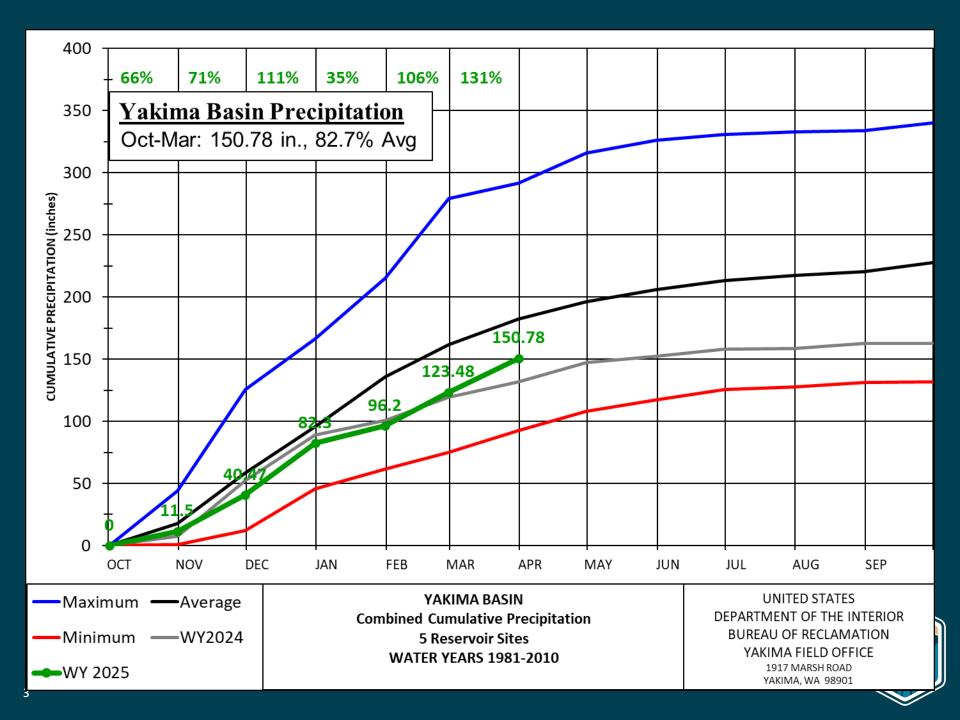
- Averaged statewide, water year temperatures and precipitation have been near-normal
 - Regional variations: water year precipitation has been below normal for western WA, including the Cascade Mountains
 - Third consecutive year of below normal Oct-Mar precipitation in Cascade Mountain West
- March was wet for most of the state with dynamic snow situation
- Farewell, La Niña!
- There aren't any indications of a late season snow bail out and the forecast for warmer than normal May temperatures could indicate an early meltout

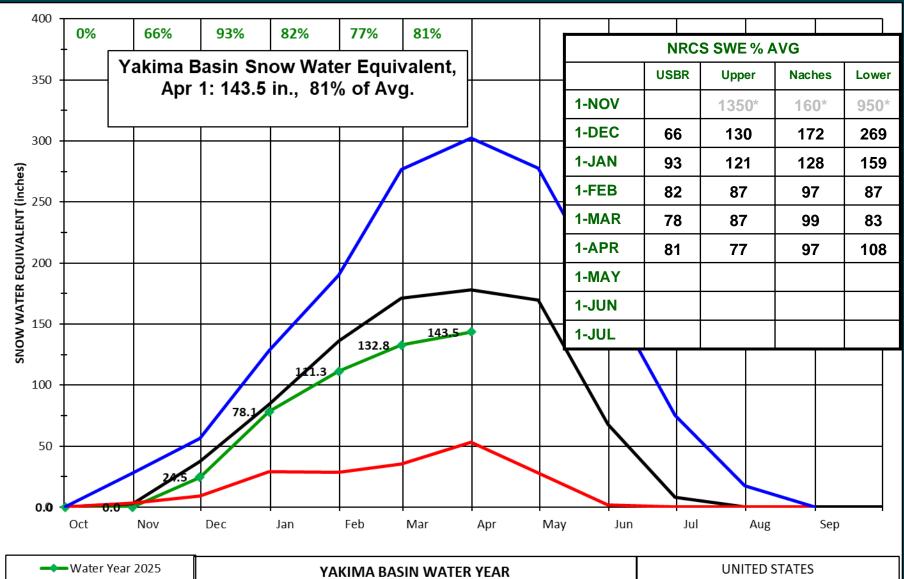


Yakima River Operations & Water Supply

Yakima Basin, Washington April 2025, WY 2025







→ Water Year 2025

→ Average

Low Year (2005)

→ High Year (1999)

YAKIMA BASIN WATER YEAR SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

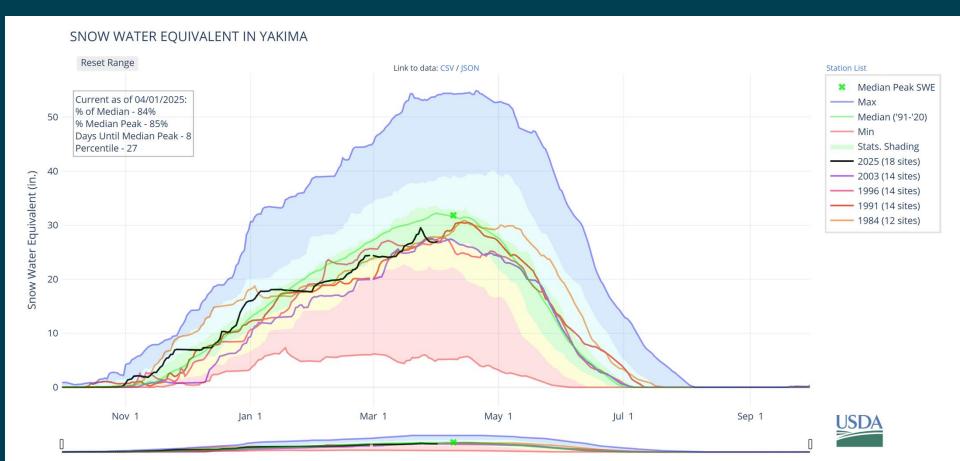
Average based on greater of 1981-2010 or POR-1995

Totals derived from 8 Yakima forecast sites

Corral, Stampede, Olallie, Fish, Bumping, Domerie, & Tunnel Avenue

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
YAKIMA FIELD OFFICE
1917 MARSH ROAD
YAKIMA, WA 98901

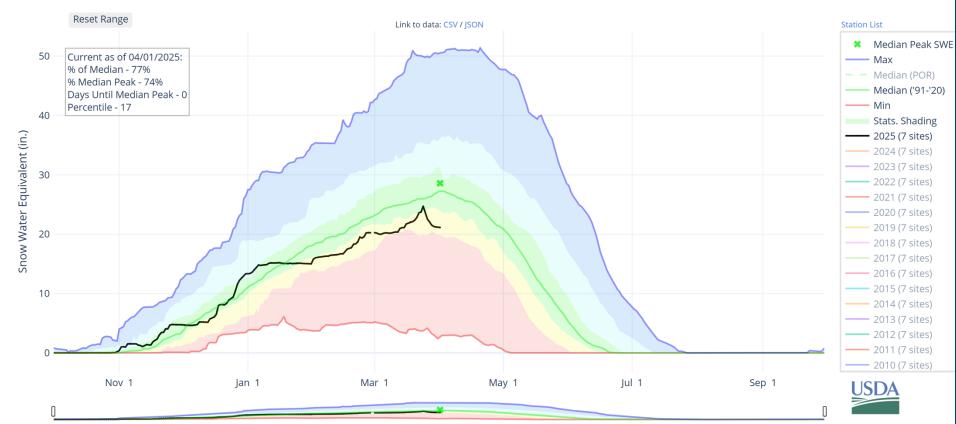
Yakima Basin SNOTEL





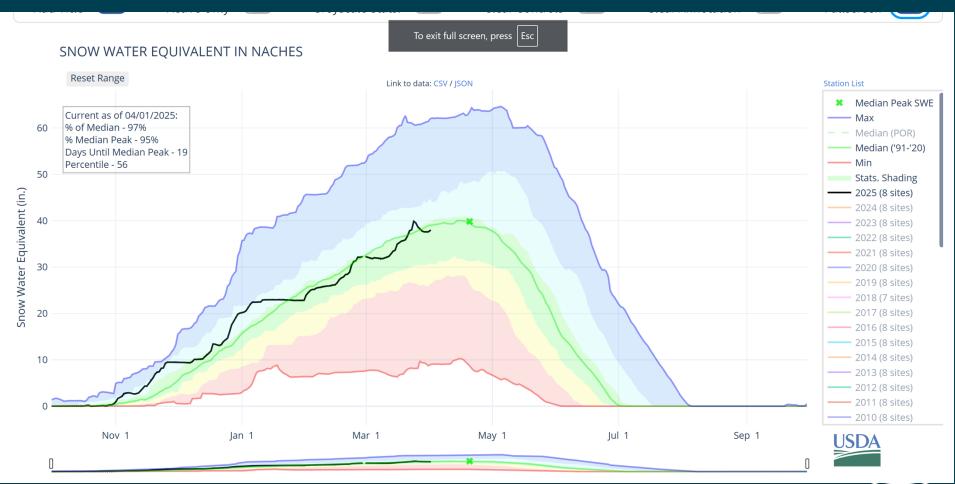
Upper Yakima Basin SNOTEL



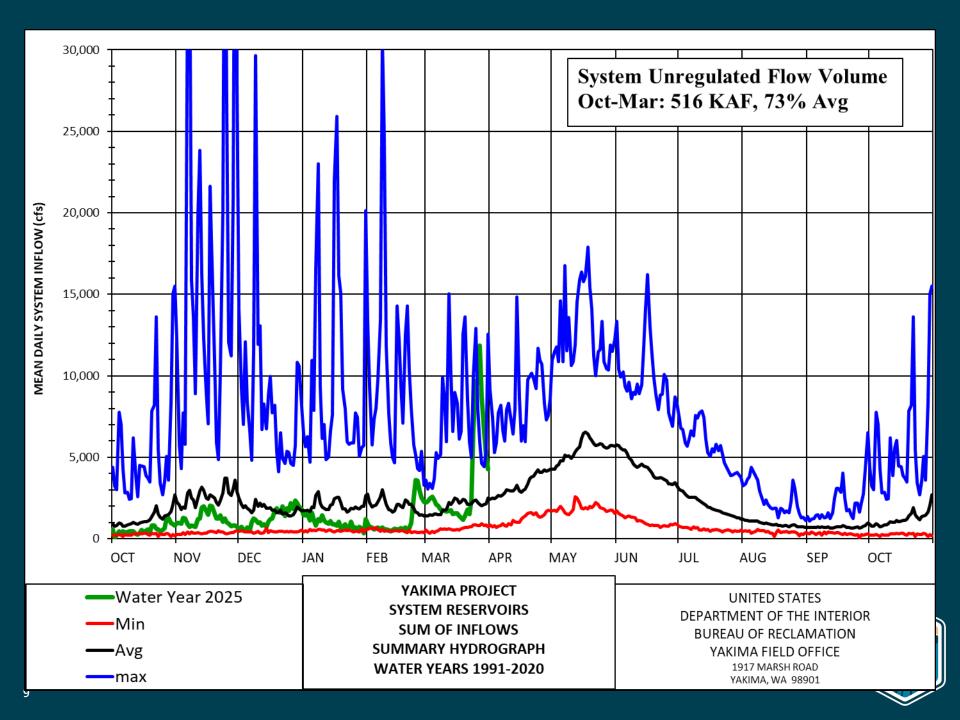


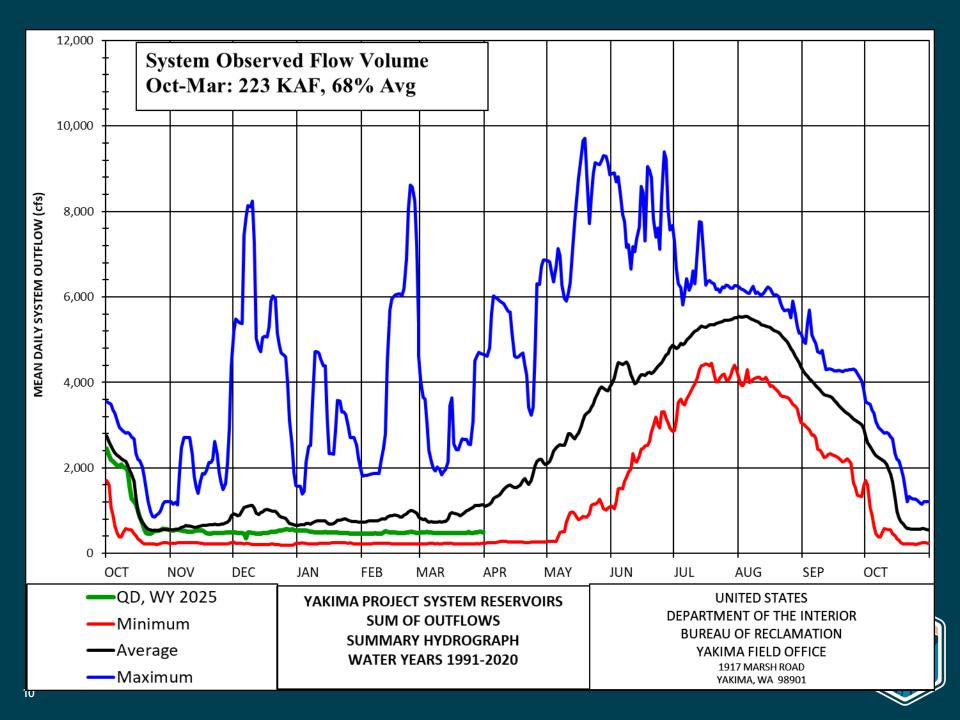


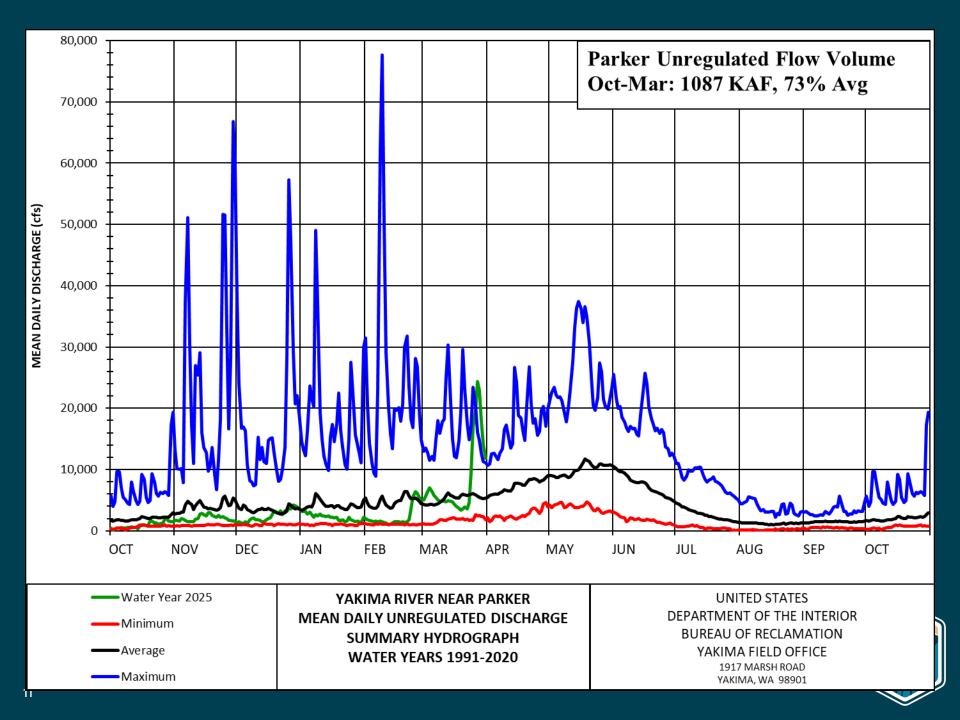
Naches Basin SNOTEL

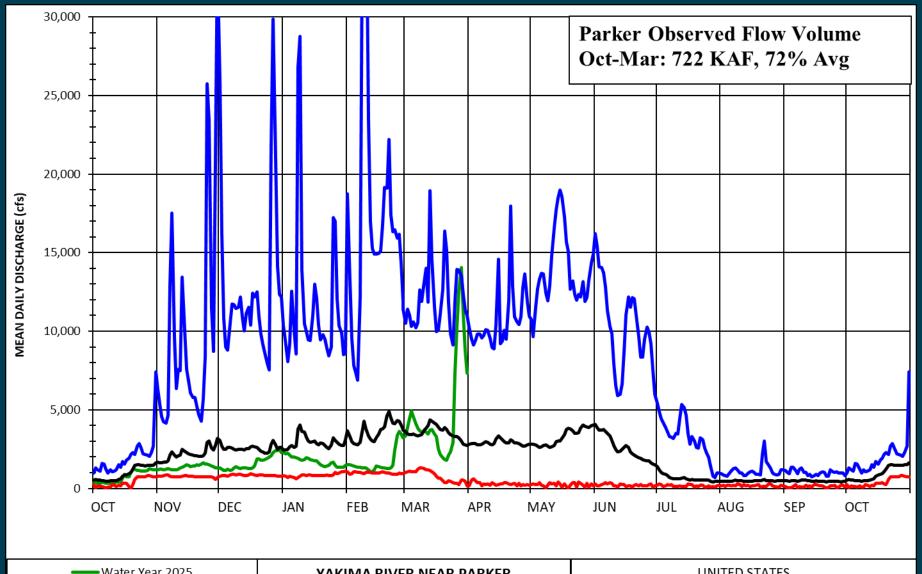






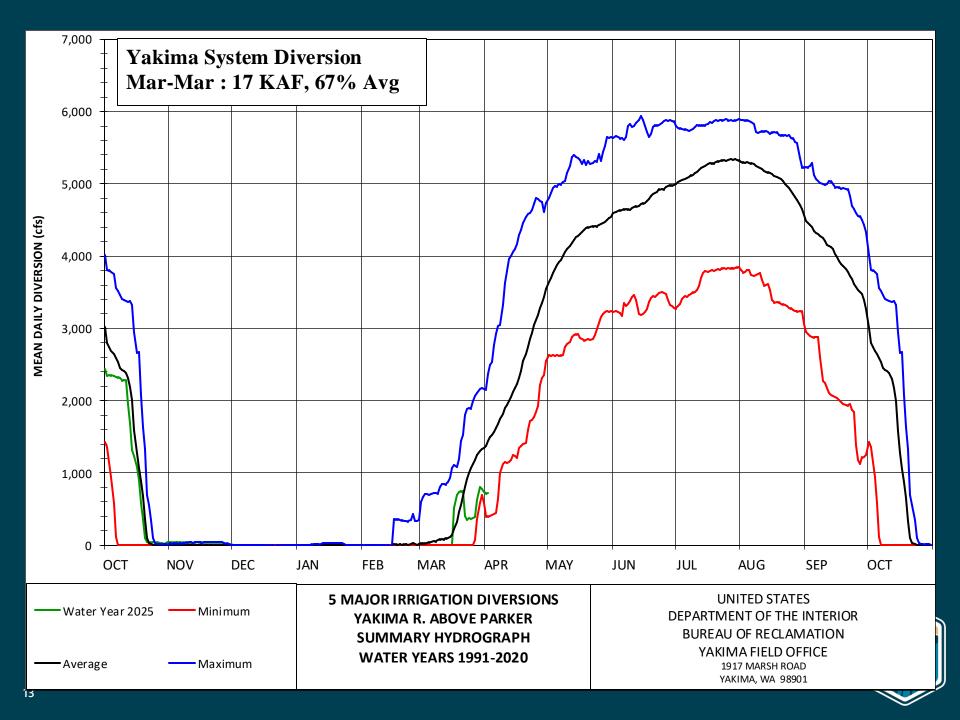


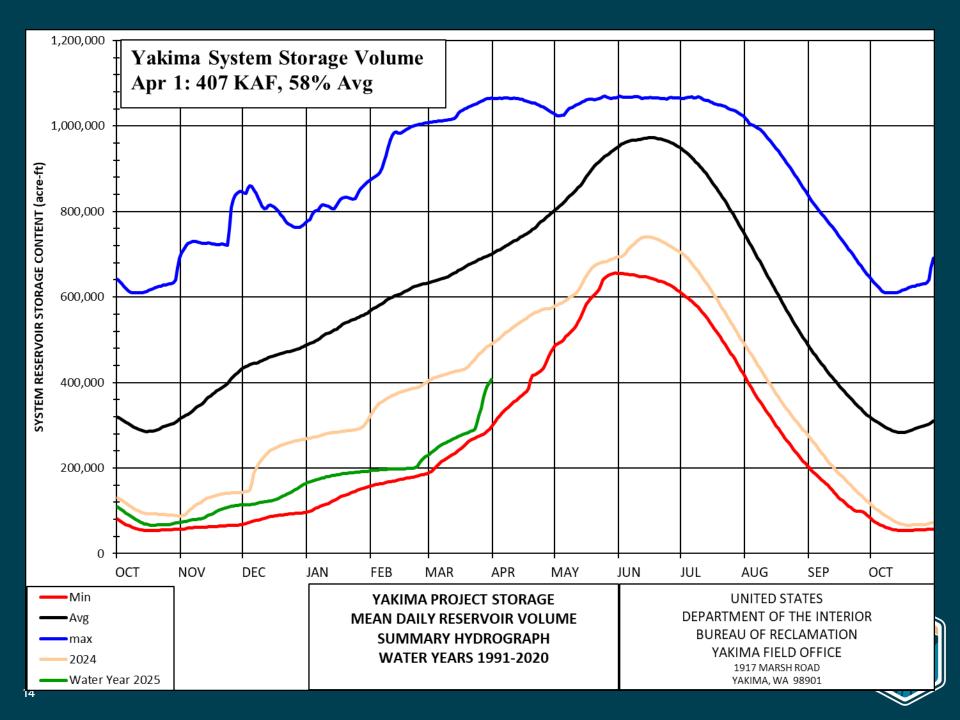


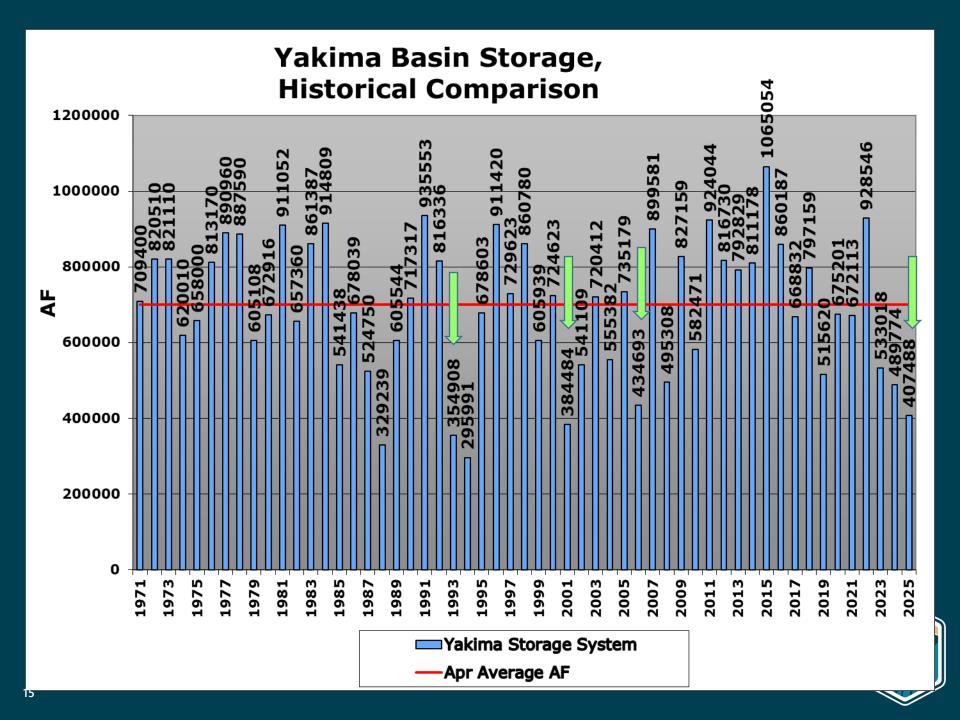


Water Year 2025MinimumAverageMaximum

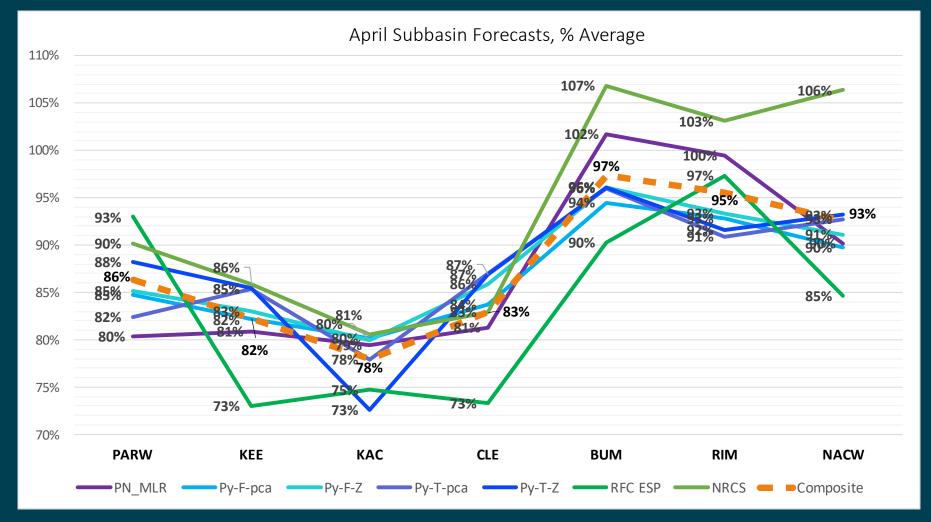
YAKIMA RIVER NEAR PARKER MEAN DAILY REGULATED DISCHARGE SUMMARY HYDROGRAPH WATER YEARS 1991-2020 UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
YAKIMA FIELD OFFICE
1917 MARSH ROAD
YAKIMA, WA 98901







Yakima Subbasin forecasts, WY25





Yakima Subbasin forecasts, WY25

Yakima Basin Forecast Apr-Jul 2025 (KAF) (% of 30-year Ave)						
4/1/2025	Low	Composite	High	Low	Composite	High
PARW	1,192	1,474	1,888	70%	86%	111%
KEE	77	98	128	65%	82%	108%
KAC	66	81	104	63%	78%	100%
CLE	249	320	394	65%	83%	102%
BUM	96	112	142	84%	97%	123%
RIM	153	182	218	80%	95%	115%
NACW	579	683	848	79%	93%	115%



April 1, 2025 TWSA ESTIMATE

April 1 - September 30

Parameter*	+/-/=	Low	Adopted	High
Apr 1-Sep 30 Natural Flow at Parker est.	+	1250	1567	2041
Return Flow Estimate, est	+	285	310	350
April 1, Reservoir Content, est	+	407	407	407
TWSA	=	1942	2284	2798
SEP 30 EST RESERVOIR CONTENT	-	76	76	76
FLOW OVER SUNNYSIDE DAM	-	310	415	680
TWSA FOR IRRIGATION	=	1557	1794	2042
NONPRORATABLE ENTITLEMENT	-	1070	1070	1070
YRPW-KID release		11	8	0
REMAINING TWSA	=	476	716	972
PRORATABLE ENTITLEMENT		1239	1239	1239
% RATIO= REMAINING				
TWSA/PRORATABLE				
ENTITLEMENT		38%	58%	78%
TITLE XII FLOW TARGET, cfs	April	300	300	400
Added flow available, cfs *#*		122	128	145
Non-storeable Portion of added flow, cfs		11	11	11
Storable portion of added flow, cfs		111	117	134
BA May Pulse Flow Volume		Low-BA	Low-BA	Mid-BA

*Values are in 1,000 ac-ft unless otherwise specified.



^{*#*} State & YRBWEP Trust, Acquisition, & Conservation additions to Title XII flow range from 122 to 145 cfs.

April 1, 2025 TWSA Comparison

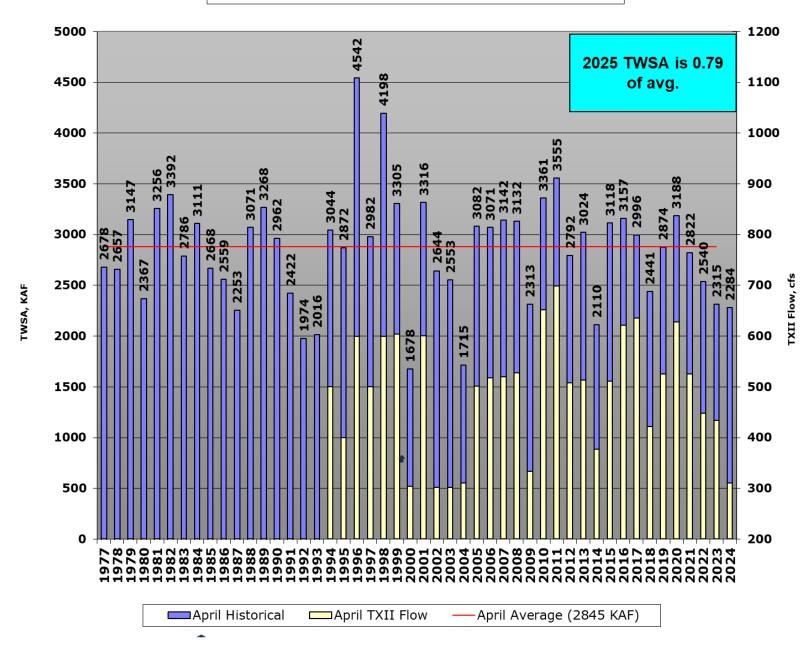
April 1 - September 30

Parameter	"+/-/="			
		Mar's 2025	Apr's 2025	Apr's 2024
Apr 1-Sep 30 Natural Flow at Parker est.	+	1450	1567	1502
Return Flow Estimate	+	270	310	320
April 1, Reservoir Content	+	304	407	493
TWSA	=	2025	2284	2315
SEP 30 EST RESERVOIR CONTENT*	-	76	76	76
FLOW OVER SUNNYSIDE DAM	-	283	415	390
TWSA FOR IRRIGATION	=	1666	1794	1849
NONPRORATABLE ENTITLEMENT	-	1070	1070	1070
REMAINING TWSA	=	596	716	779
PRORATABLE ENTITLEMENT		1239	1239	1239
% RATIO= REMAINING TWSA/PRORATABLE ENTITLEMENT		48%	58%	63%
TITLE XII FLOW REQUIREMENTS, cfs	April	300	300	300
TOTAL FLOW AVAILABLE AT PARKER, cfs *#*		425	428	434

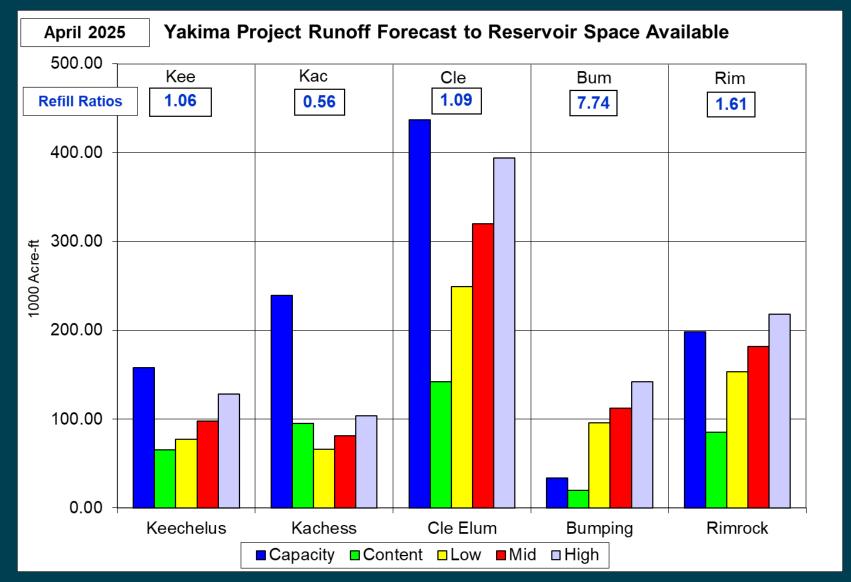
*Values are in 1,000 ac-ft unless otherwise specified.

^{*#*} State & YRBWEP Trust, Acquisition, & Conservation additions to Title XII flow.

Yakima Basin Historical TWSA's









Yakima Basin Flows

Minimum Flow Targets, WY2025

Location	Target Flow (cfs)
Keechelus (KEE)	80
Kachess	10 (normally 30)
Easton (EASW)	190
Cle Elum (CLE)	180
Tieton River (TICW)	75
Rimrock	50
Bumping (BUM)	130 (range: inflow to 130+)

YRPW subordination is 1000 cfs RBDW subordination 1300 cfs

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(YRPW: 1000 Apr-Jun, TXII+add+35 or 450, 800 Oct-Nov, 600 Dec-Mar) (RBDW: 1300 Apr-May, 500 Jun-Oct, 500 Oct-Mar,)
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Yakima Basin Outmigration Flows (BA Pulse Flows)

Table 2-14. Minimum volume of water (acre-feet) that will be available in April and May during years when water prorationing levels are equal to or greater than 70% to provide outmigration flows. Outmigration flows are measured at Tieton Dam (RIM), Cle Elum Dam (CLE), and Yakima River at Easton gage (EASW).

	Monthly Min. acre-feet for Outmigration Flows				
April TWSA (MAF)	< 2.36	2.36 - 3.13	> 3.13		
May TWSA (MAF)	< 2.20	2.20 – 2.61	> 2.61		
RIM	4,500	8,400	14,800		
CLE	4,200	9,900	18,800		
EASW	3,700	4,800	9,900		

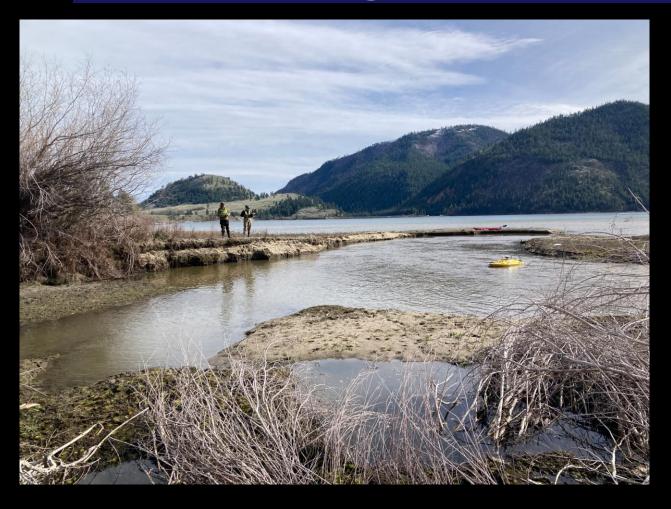
Easton (EASW) can be met from unregulated local inflow below Kee and Kac. RIM/NACW can be met from spill at BUM.

Hydrologic Summary

- Storage is 5th lowest in POR from 1971-2025, 407 KAF, 38% full, 58.2% avg.
- March precip, 131% avg.
- WYTD precip, 83% avg.
- Adopted Runoff forecasts are near 86% avg.
- TWSA is 2.284 MAF, 80% of normal
- Prorationing would be 58%
- Low refill probabilities but likely at BUM.
- BA Pulse Flows are in the Low Range



Streamflow & Groundwater Conditions in Washington State as of 8 April 2025



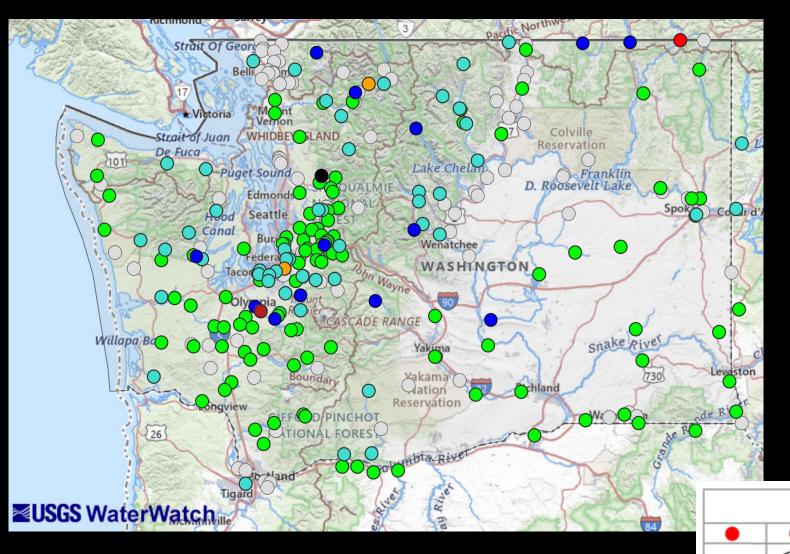
Presented on 10 April 2025
to the Washington Water Supply
Availability Committee
by Nicholas Sutfin,
nsutfin@usgs.gov
USGS Washington Water
Science Center

This information is preliminary and is subject to revision. It is being provided to meet the need for timely best science. The information is provided on the condition that neither the U.S. Geological Survey nor the U.S. Government shall be held liable for any damages resulting from the authorized or unauthorized use of the information.



7-day Average Streamflow

Conditions as of 8 April 2025



https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=pa07d&sid=w__gmap&r=wa

Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

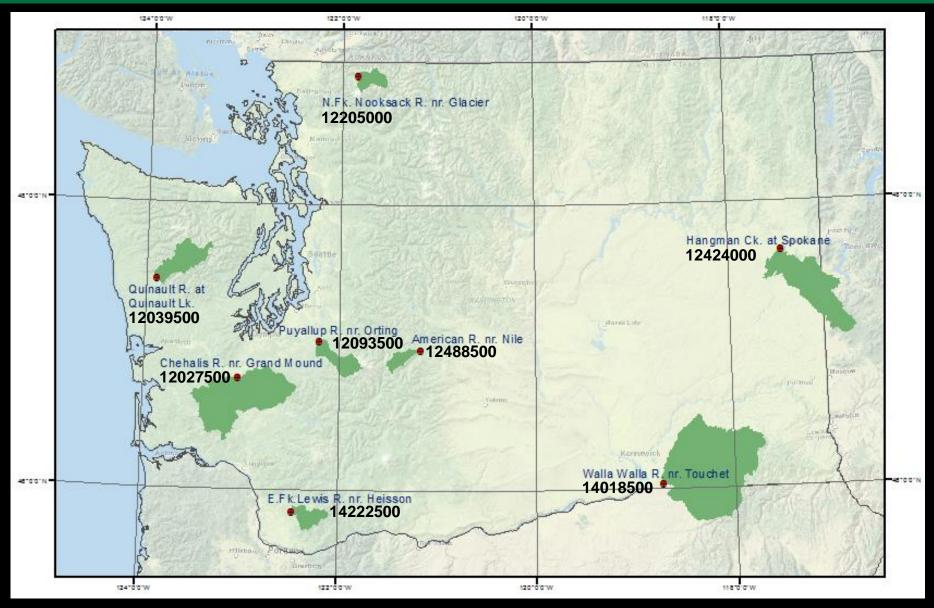
WaterWatch is scheduled to be discontinued in 2026

Explanation - Percentile classes

Record Low Much below normal Normal Above normal Nor



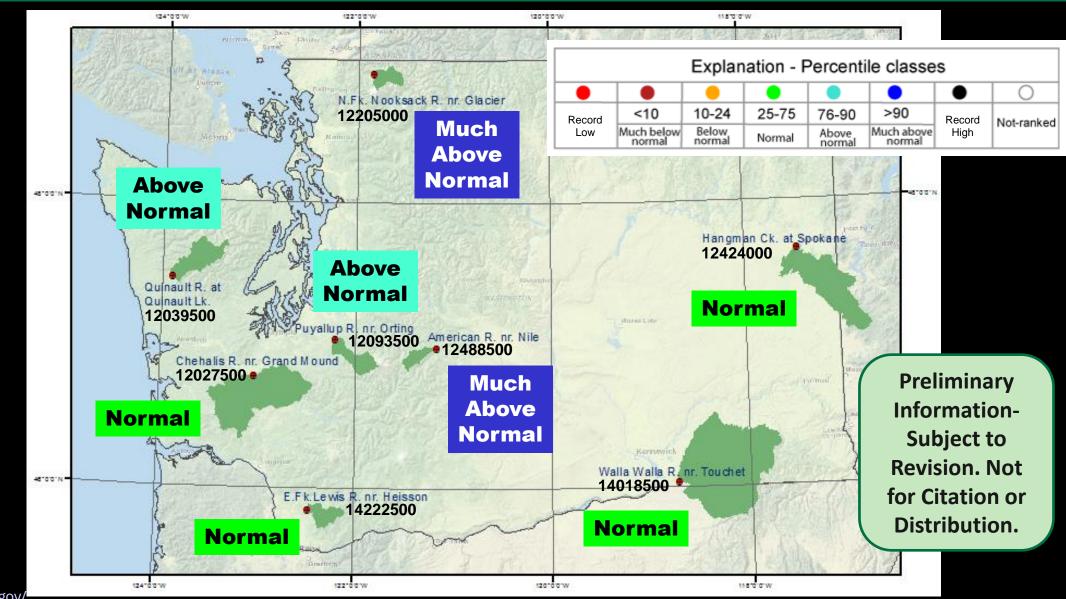
Index Gaging Stations
(Stations that measure natural or near-natural streamflow)





Index Gaging Stations

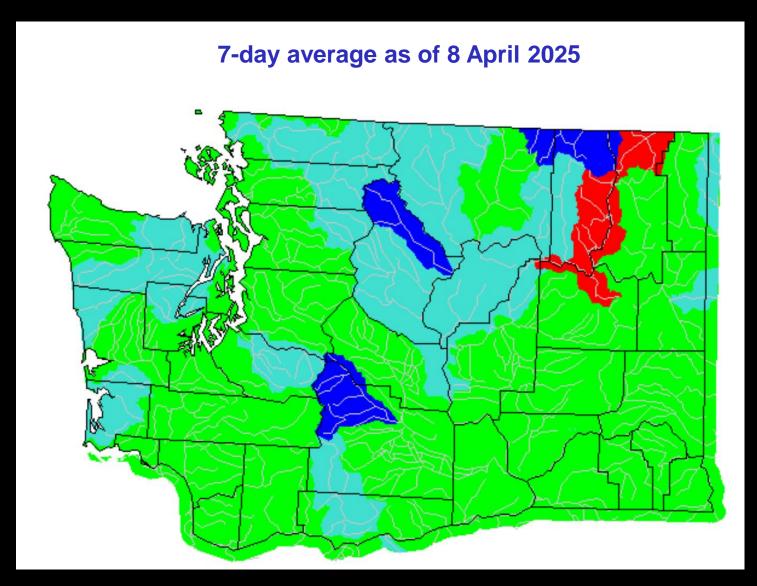
7-day average streamflow as of 8 April 2025





Average streamflow

compared to historical streamflow

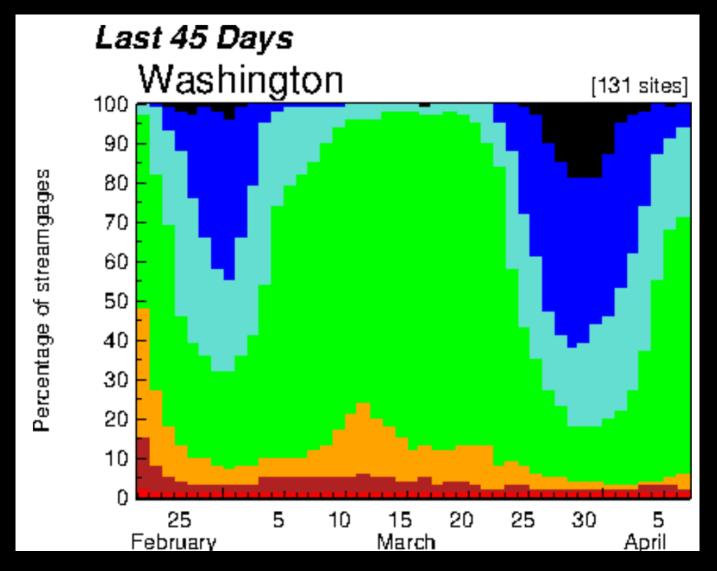


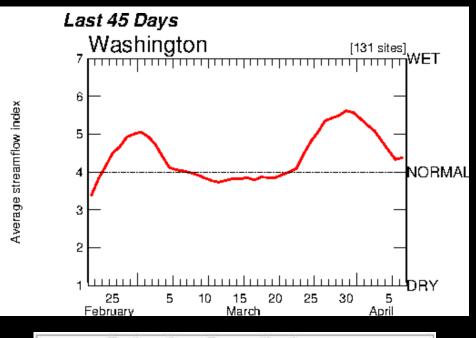
Explanation - Percentile classes										
Record Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	Record				
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High				



7-day average streamflow

Most USGS stream gages at normal as of 8 April 2025

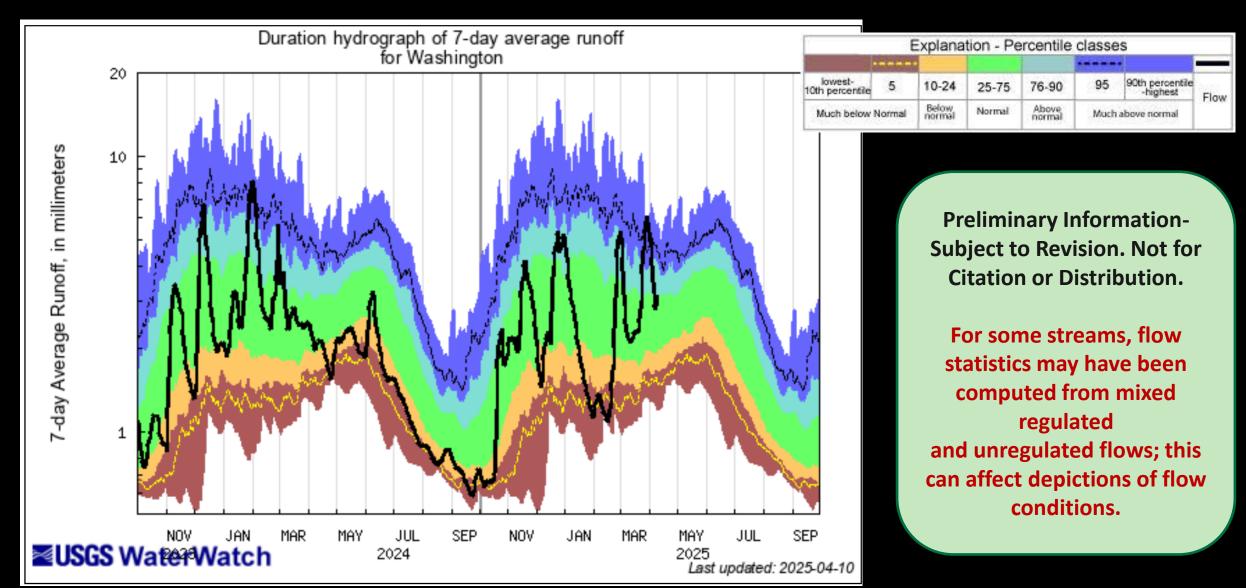






Area-Based Runoff Duration Hydrograph

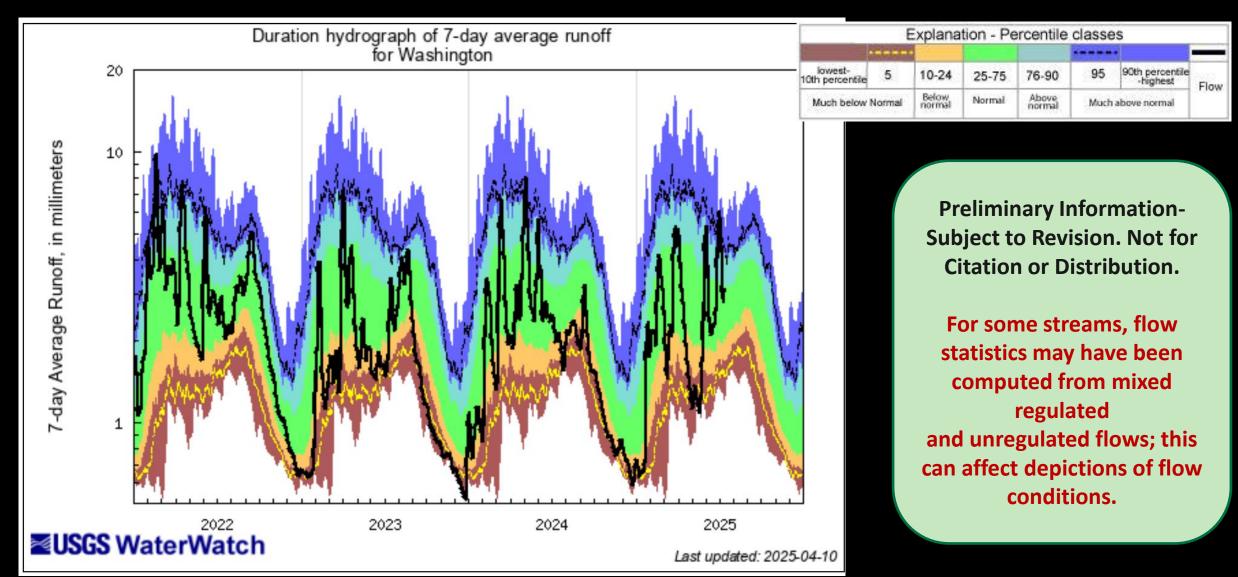
7-day average streamflow





Area-Based Runoff Duration Hydrograph

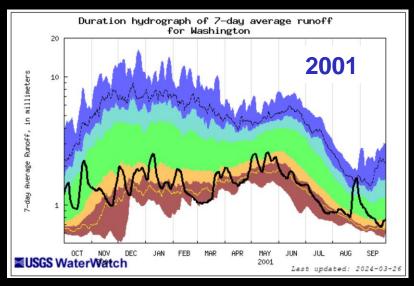
7-day average streamflow





Area-Based Runoff Duration Hydrograph

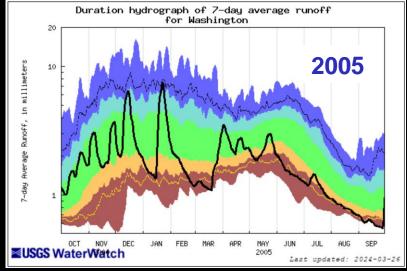
7-day average streamflow

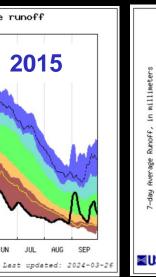


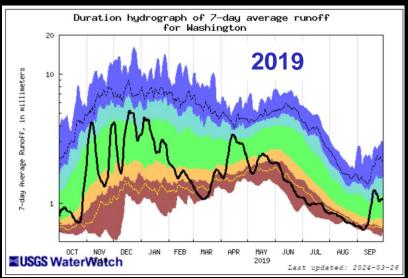
Duration hydrograph of 7-day average runoff

■USGS WaterWatch

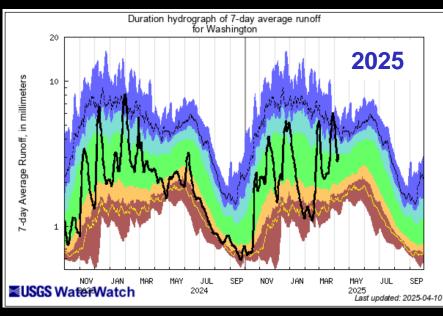
for Washington







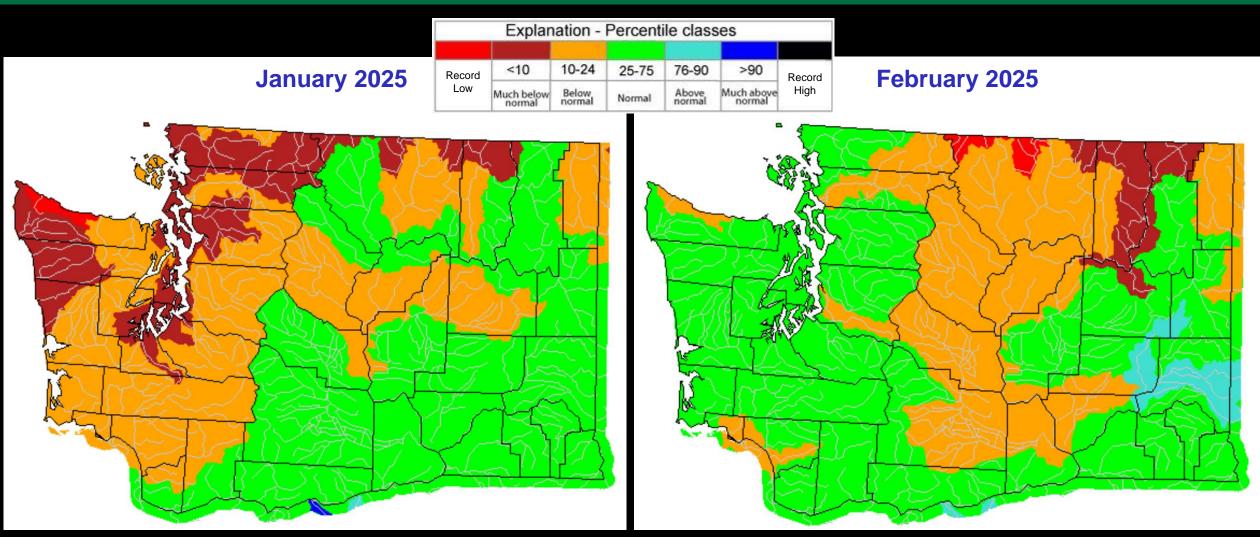
Duration hydrograph for the year compared to recent years of drought



1	F	Explana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classe	s	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below Normal		Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		1.100

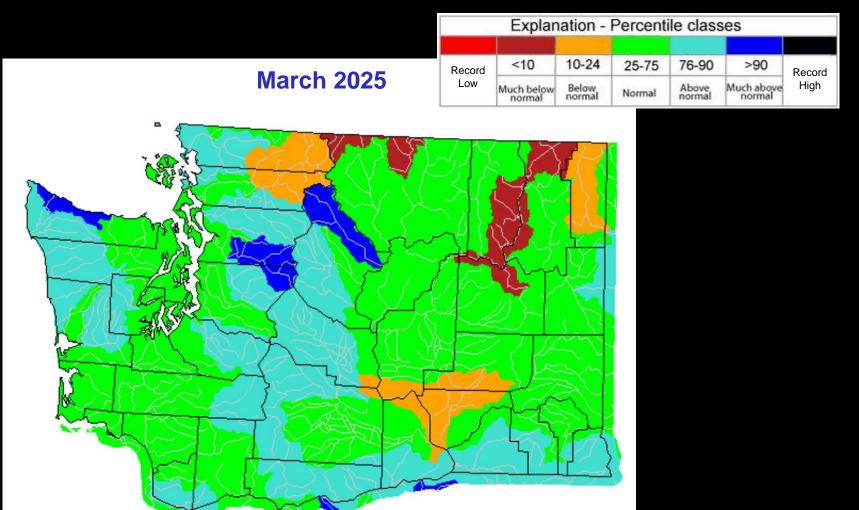


compared to historical streamflow



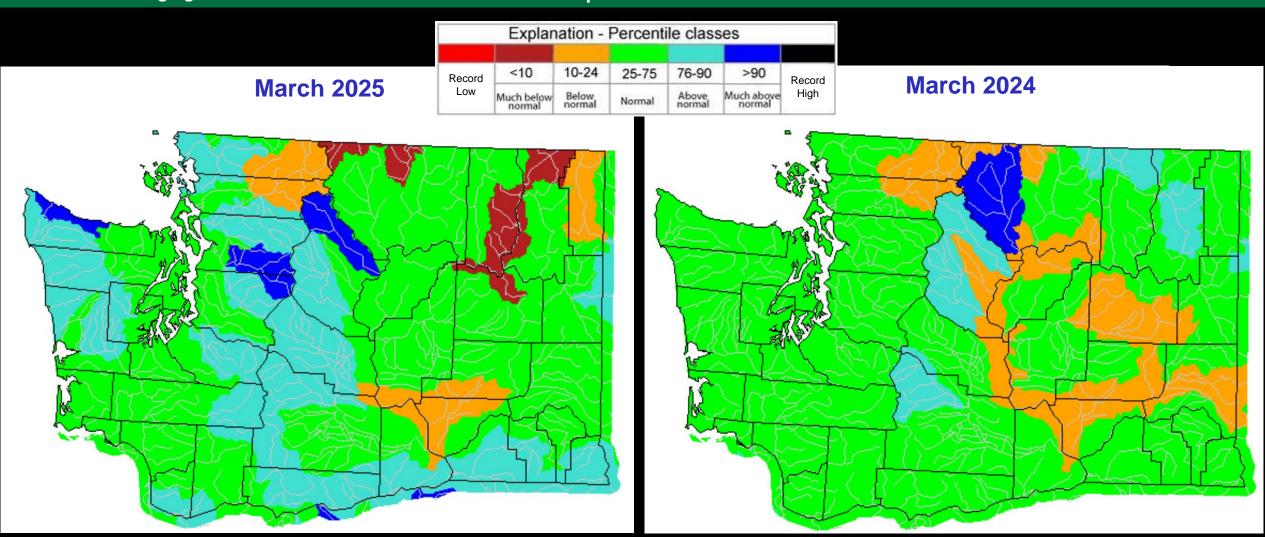


compared to historical streamflow



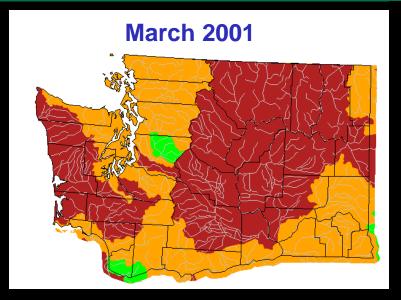


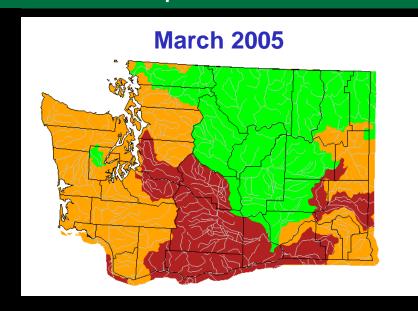
compared to historical streamflow

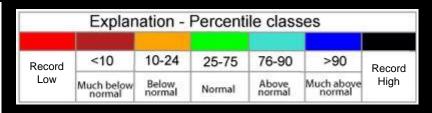




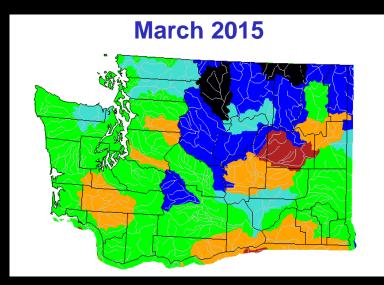
compared to historical streamflow

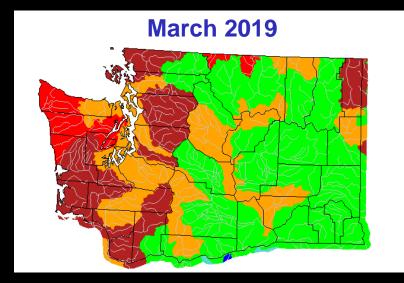


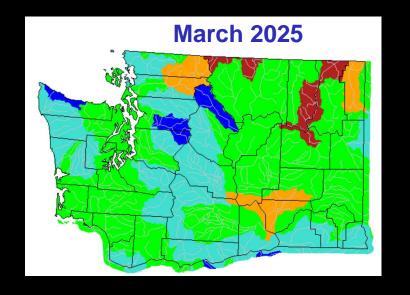




https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/



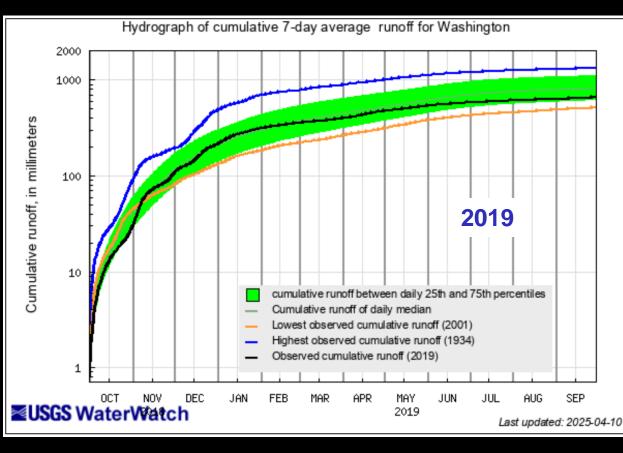


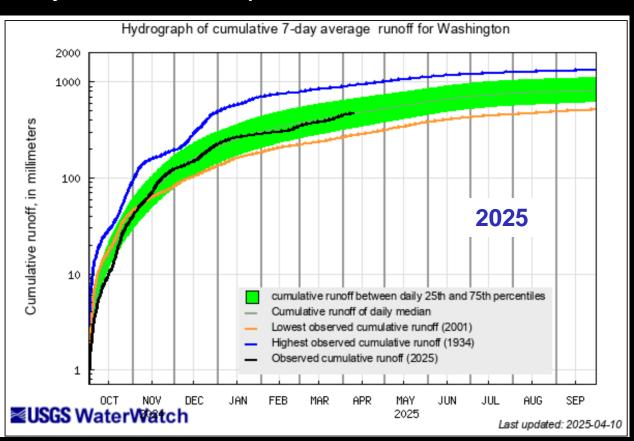




Cumulative runoff hydrograph Area-based runoff based on 7-day average

Normal for 2025 water year as of 8 April





2024 water year

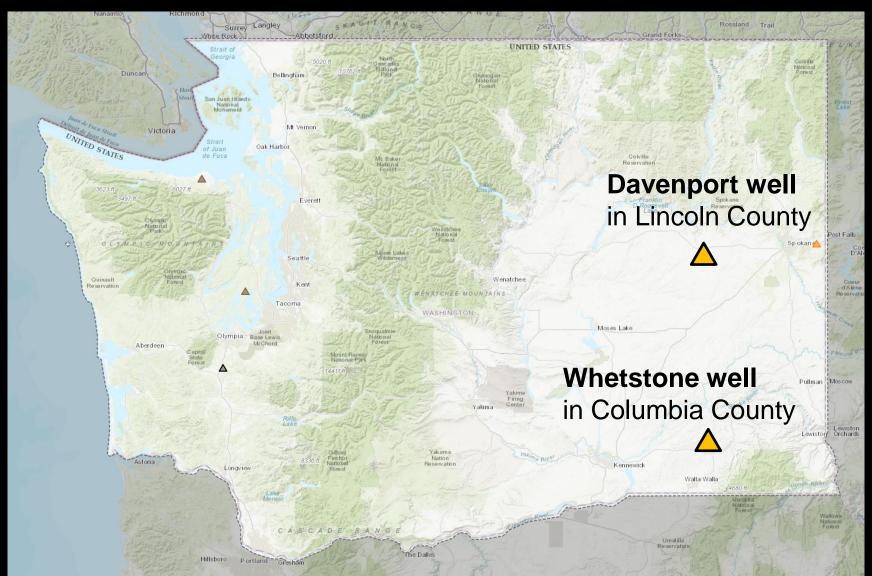
Area-based runoff may have been computed from mixed regulated and unregulated streamflows

https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

2025 water year

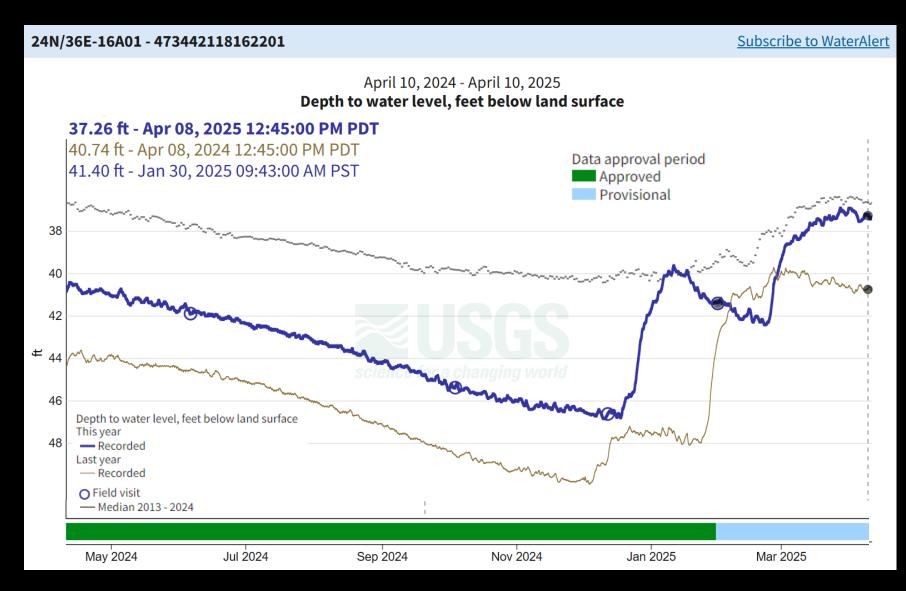


Two reference groundwater wells





Davenport Well Groundwater Conditions



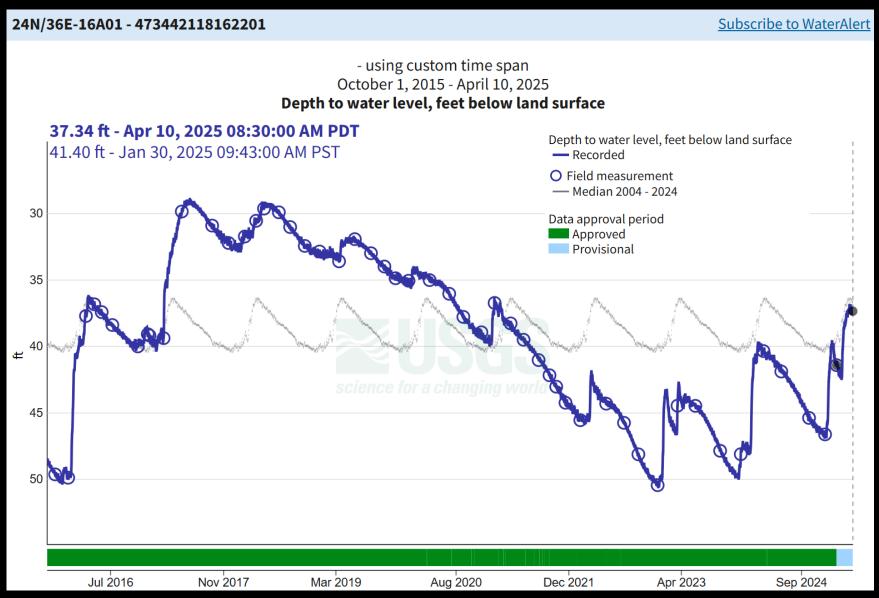
Davenport well

Well Details

- Lincoln County
- 117-ft deep
- Wanapum Basalt



Davenport Well Groundwater Conditions



Well Details

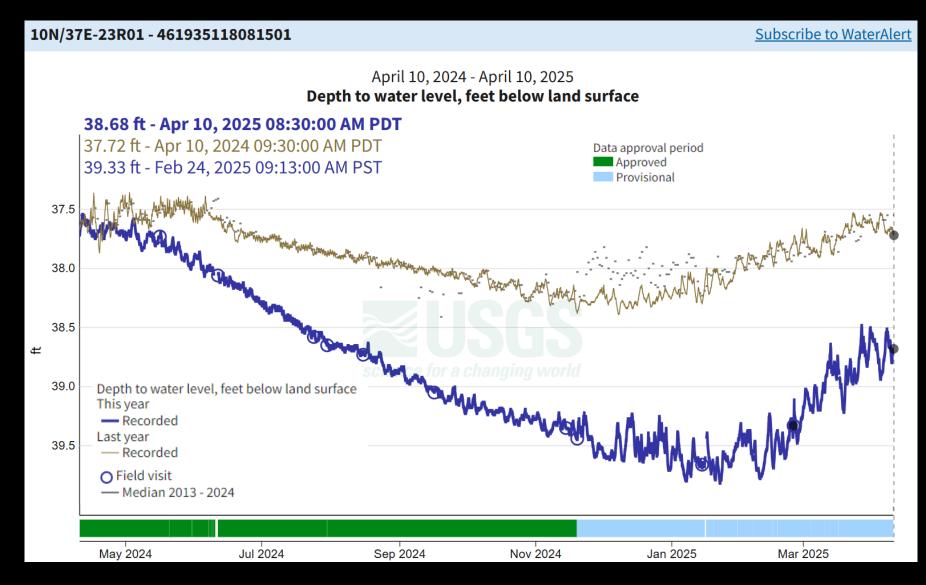
- Lincoln County
- 117-ft deep
- Wanapum Basalt

Preliminary
InformationSubject to
Revision. Not for
Citation or
Distribution.

https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.go v/app/nwd/en/?aoi=state-wa



Whetstone Well Groundwater Conditions



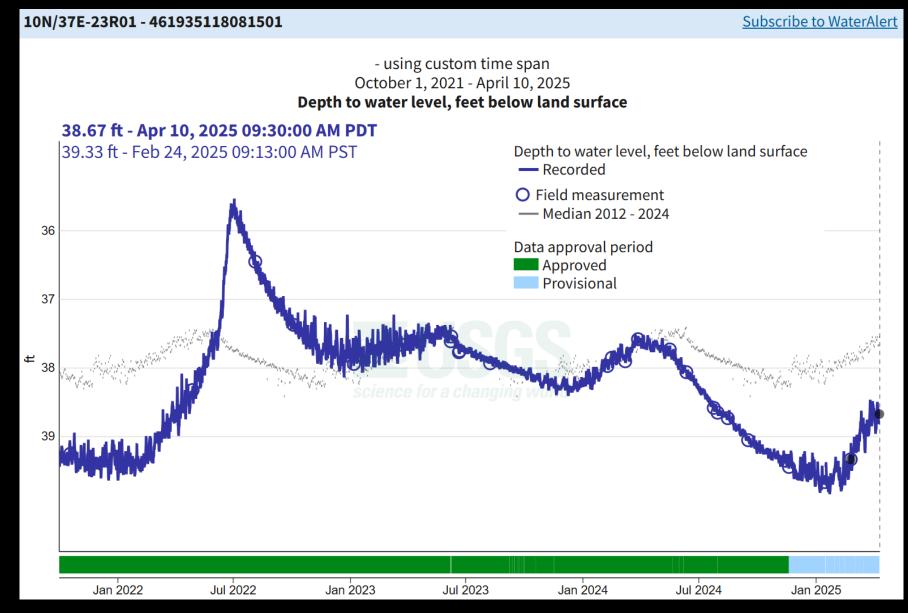
Whetstone well

Well Details:

- ColumbiaCounty nearWaitsburg
- 172.5-ft deep
- Grande Ronde Basalt Formation



Whetstone Well Groundwater Conditions



Well Details:

- Columbia County near Waitsburg
- 172.5-ft deep
- Grande Ronde Basalt Formation

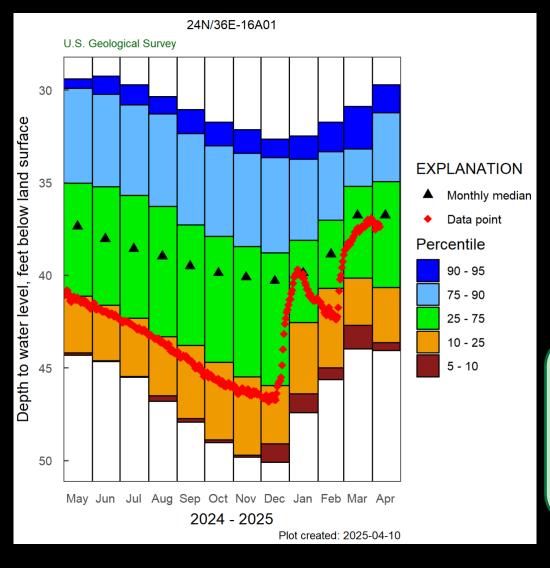
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Groundwater Conditions

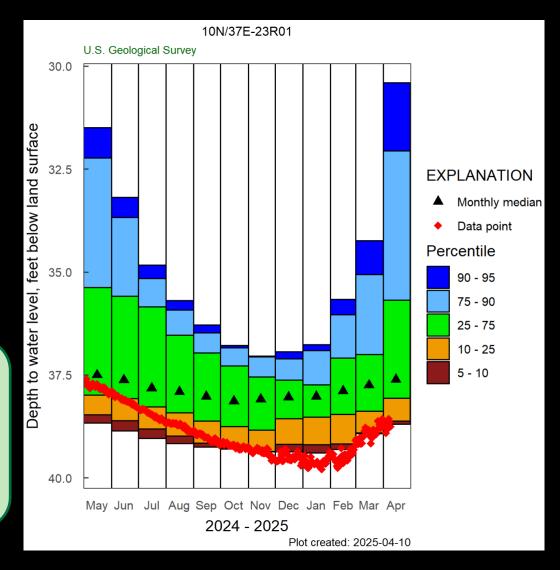
Davenport well



EXPLANATION ▲ Monthly median ◆ Data point Percentile 90 - 95 75 - 90 25 - 75 10 - 25 5 - 10

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Distribution.

Whetstone well





Summary of Washington Streamflow and Groundwater Conditions as of 9 April 2025

7-day average streamflow at eight index gaging stations:

Normal

- Chehalis River nr. Grand Mound
- EF Lewis River
- Hangman Creek
- Walla Walla River

Above Normal

- Quinault River
- Puyallup River nr. Orting

Much Above Normal

- American River
- Nooksack River

Cumulative Runoff Hydrograph Normal for water year 2025

Area-based Runoff Duration Hydrograph

Normal for water year 2025

Monthly average groundwater conditions:

- Davenport well
 - Normal
- Whetstone well
 - Below to much below normal



NWS

Apr 2025 Washington Water Supply

Amy Burke, Sr Hydrologist - Northwest River Forecast Center NWRFC.watersupply@noaa.gov

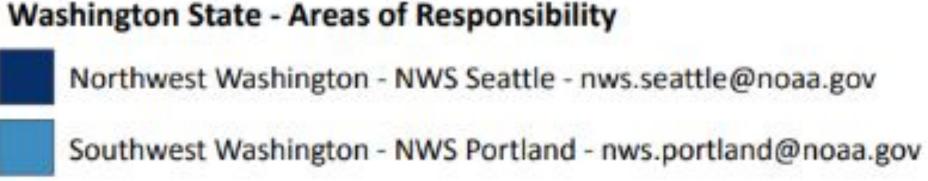
Brent Bower, Sr Service Hydrologist Seattle

Andy Bryant, Sr Service Hydrologist Portland Tanya Fransen, Meteorologist In Charge

Robin Fox, Service Hydrologist Spokane

George Perry, Service Hydrologist Pendleton

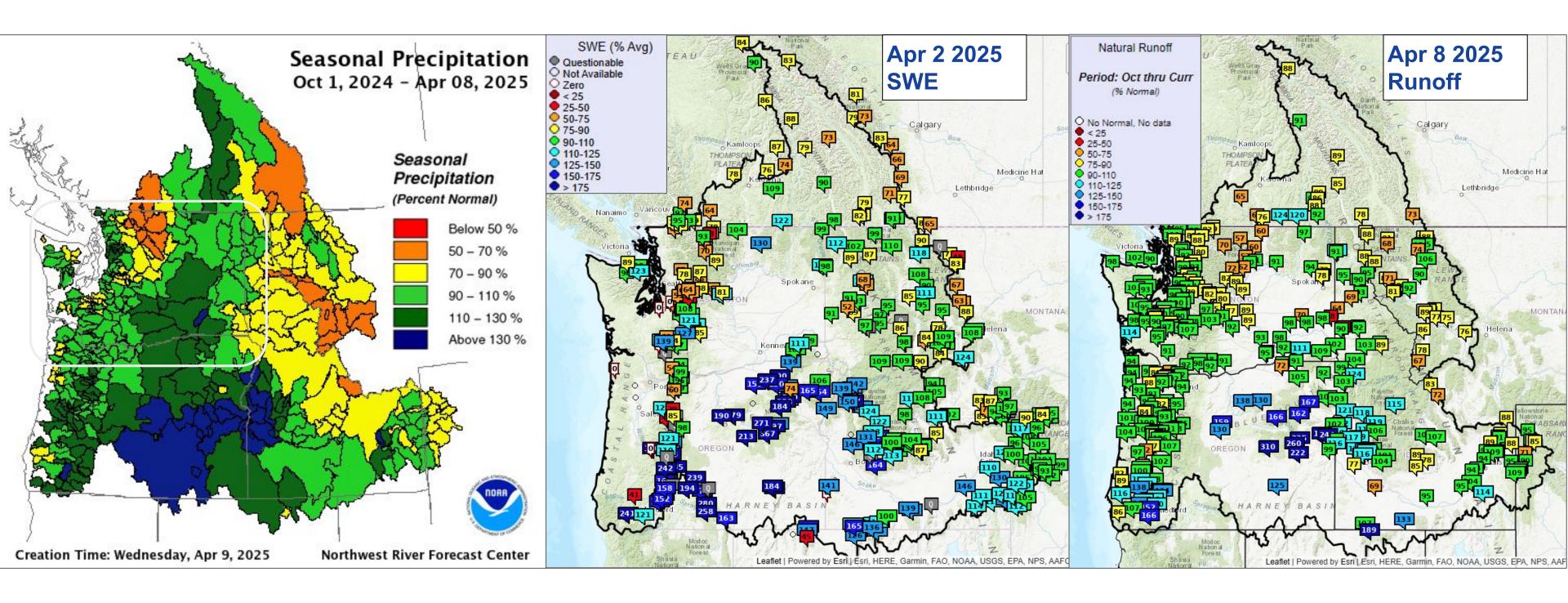






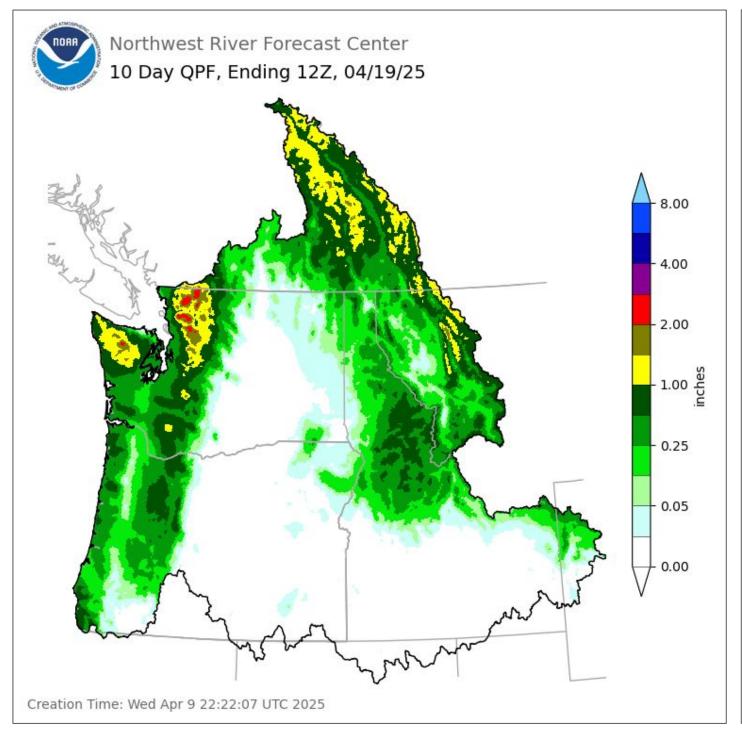


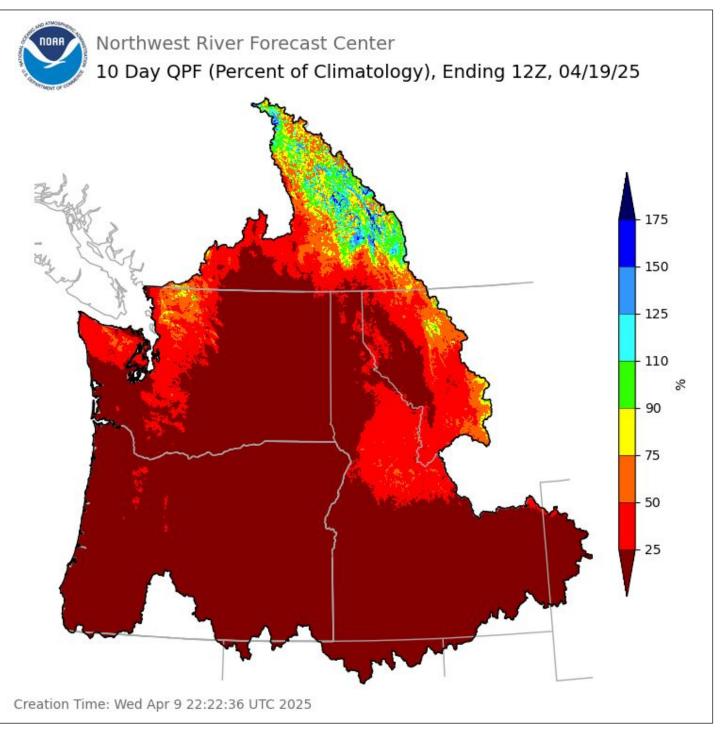
Precipitation, Snowpack and Runoff





10 Day Precipitation Forecast used in ESP10 Forecasts





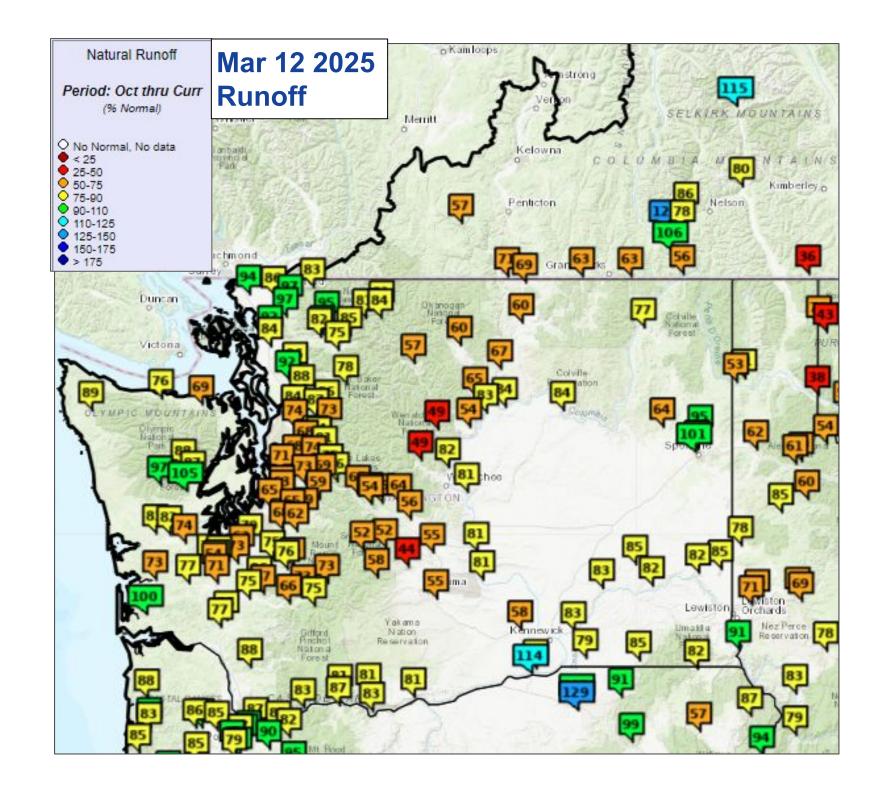
Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) Sources

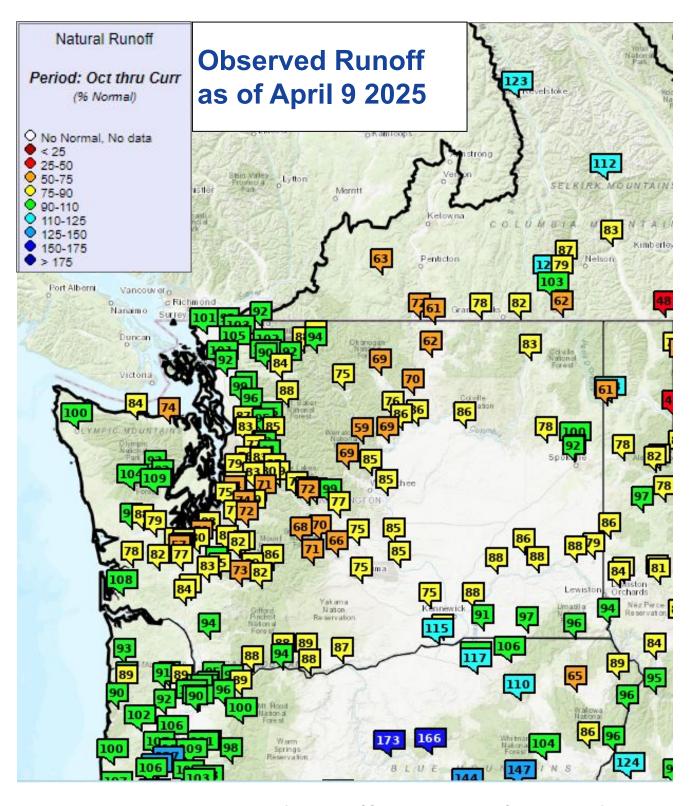
Days 1 - 2 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in the US, WPC in BC

Days 3 - 7 NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

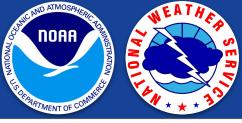
Days 8 - 10 NWS National Blend of Models (NBM)

WY Runoff and Apr - Sep Forecasts

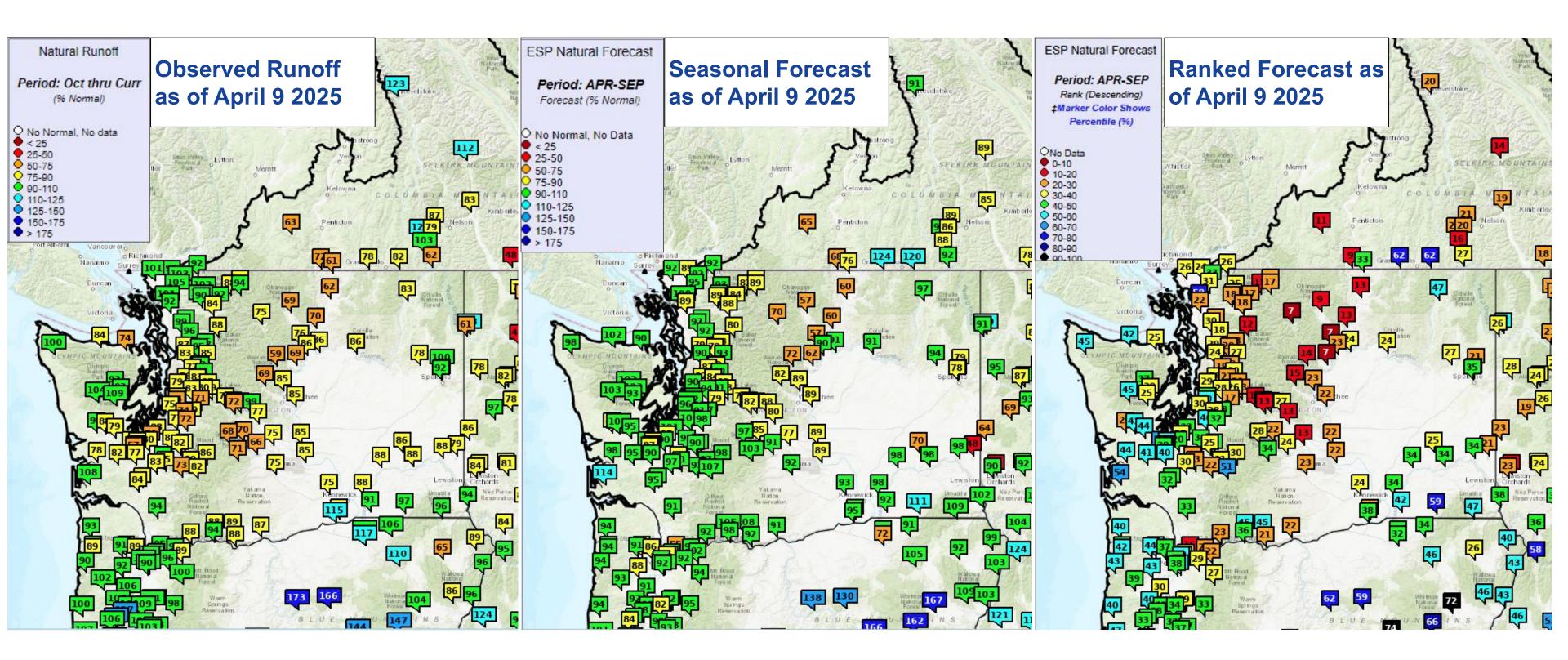




 Water year total runoff percent of normal has improved since March in some areas



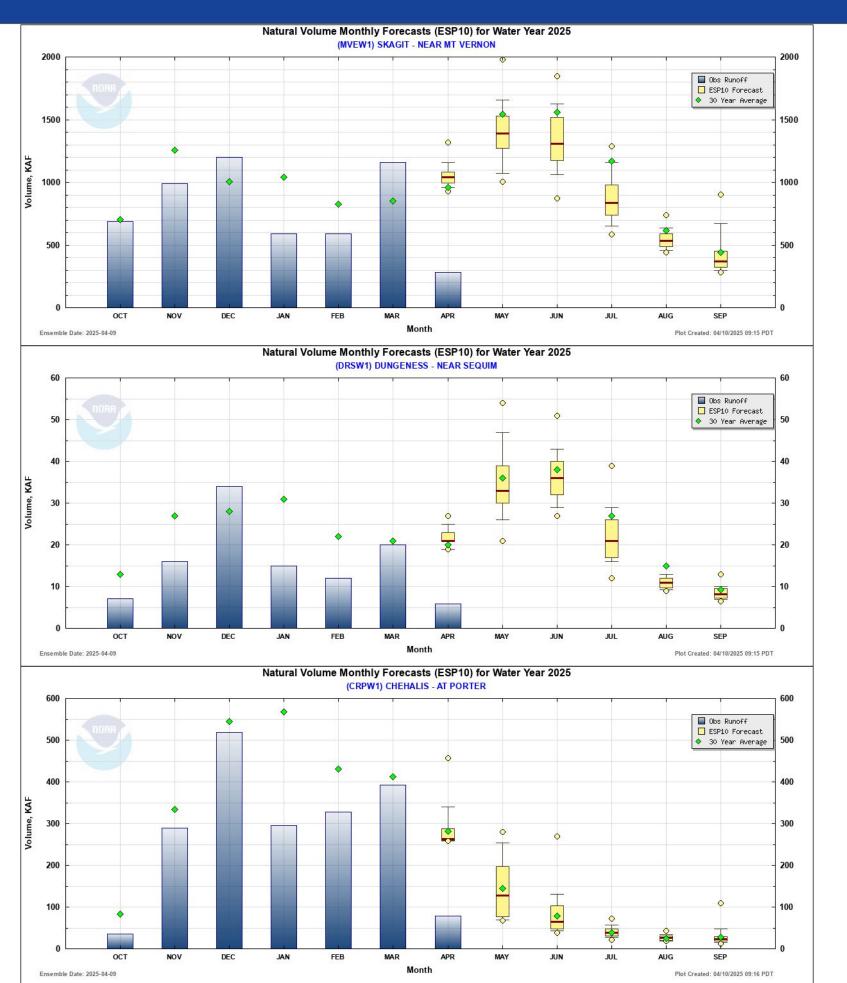
WY Runoff and Apr - Sep Forecasts

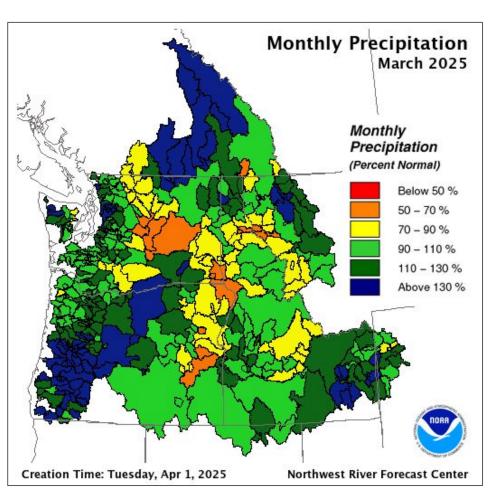


- Forecasts for the Apr-Sep period remain higher than observed runoff
- Ranking the forecasts volumes against their historical records helps highlight areas of concern

West Side Apr - Sep Forecasts

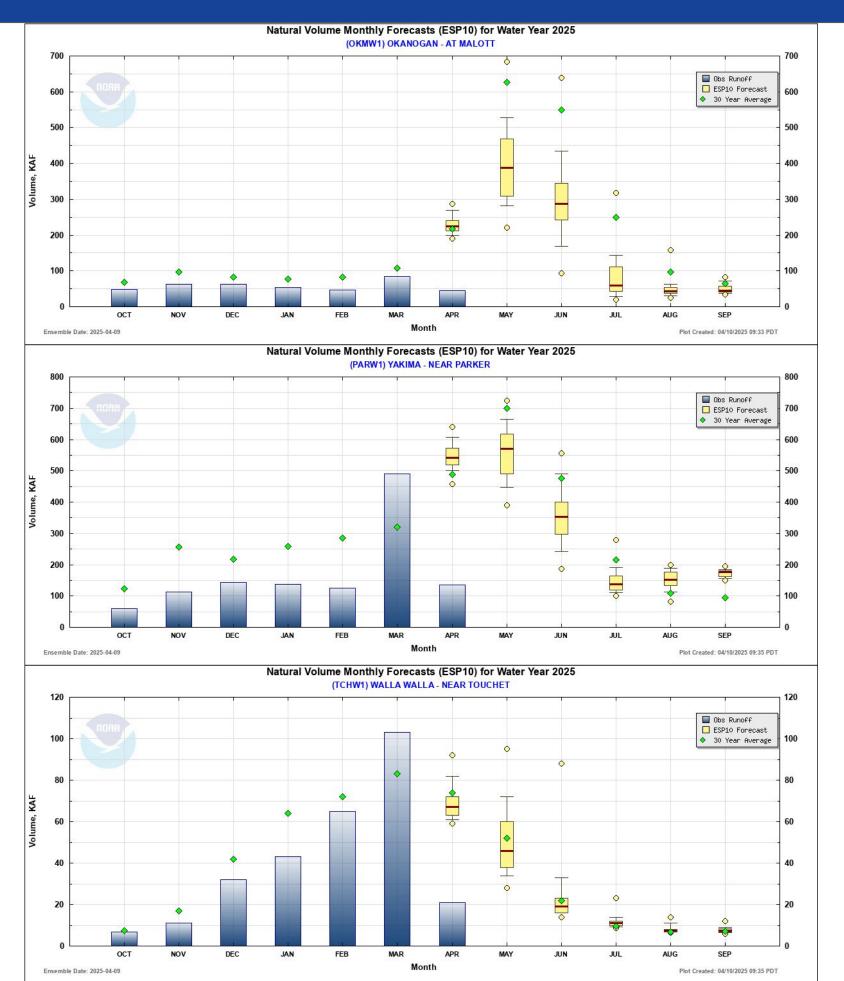
 Basins on the west slope of the Cascades had higher than normal March runoff

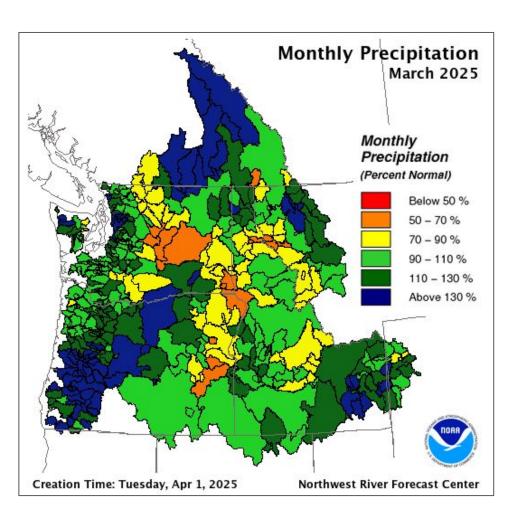




West Side Apr - Sep Forecasts

 Basins on the east slope of the Cascades had a mix of above and below normal March runoff





Takeaways

- March was wet compared to normal for most of Washington
- Runoff since October 1 improved over the last month but remains below normal in key areas

• Precipitation forecasts for the next 10 days is below normal. Will any precipitation make it over the cascades to the east side?

 Apr-Sep river forecasts have bumped up in many areas, yet still remain below normal especially for north-central, areas near the Cascade crest and Olympics